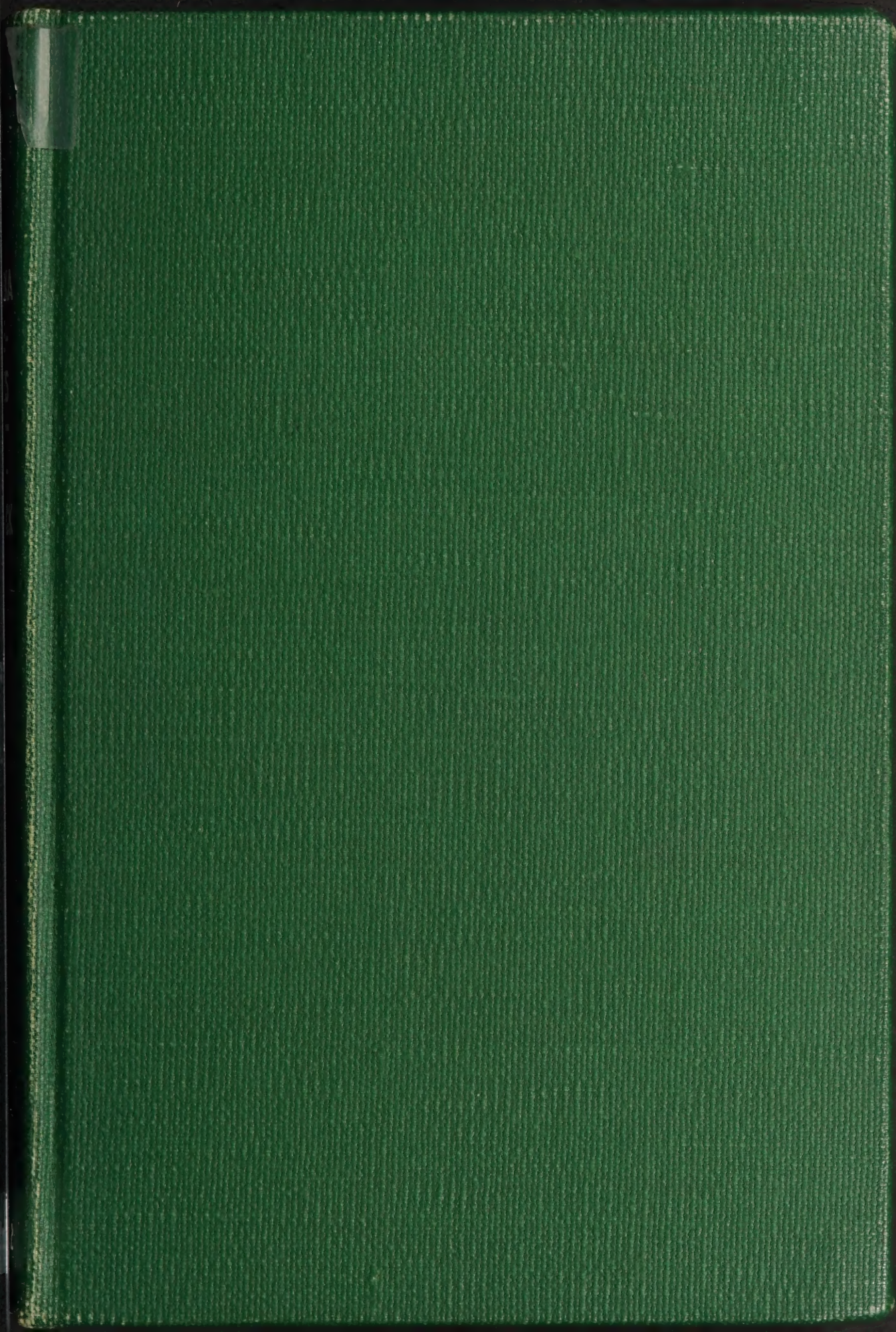


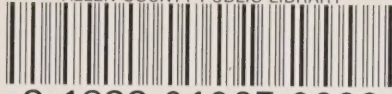


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## Nebraska Place-Names



# NEBRASKA PLACE-NAMES

by LILIAN L. FITZPATRICK

*including selections from*

THE ORIGIN OF  
THE PLACE-NAMES OF NEBRASKA

by J. T. LINK

*Edited, with an introduction,*

by G. THOMAS FAIRCLOUGH

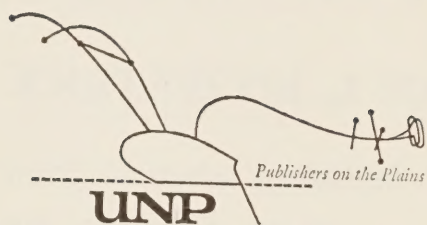
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1960

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## INTRODUCTION

The monographs which this edition brings together within the same cover are representative today, as they were at the time of publication, of the most significant work that has been done in the study of Nebraska place-names. As such they will be of interest to a wide variety of readers. While onomatology, the study of names, has been recognized in the twentieth century as a valid and useful branch of linguistic science with its own methodology and terminology, its subject matter is of a kind that cannot be enclosed in a preserve for the delectation of specialists alone. The common reader—indeed, the common alert human being—has his attention and often his curiosity frequently drawn to names. My own interest in names was aroused when, at the age of seven or eight, I learned that an insignificant street in a thoroughly undistinguished Pennsylvania mining town bore the name of my great-grandfather, and this interest has grown steadily ever since. Natives and residents of Nebraska will find their curiosity about their state both stimulated and satisfied by the information which the authors of this book contribute. Such, indeed, I hope will be the reaction of all readers, wherever they may live; and perhaps a few may be spurred to take up the subject where Fitzpatrick and Link left it.

Although Miss Fitzpatrick's work appeared in print in 1925 and Link's in 1933, they have not previously been available to any large number of readers. Lilian Linder Fitzpatrick's *Nebraska Place-Names* was given noncommercial publication by the University of Nebraska, in its series of Studies in Language, Literature, and Criticism. John Thomas Link's *The Origin of the Place Names of Nebraska* appeared as a Bulletin of the Nebraska Geological Survey. It is part of the purpose of this edition to place their work before a larger segment of the public than it was possible to reach with the original books.

An additional and regrettable cause for the comparative

obscurity into which these studies have fallen is the fact that both authors were prevented from performing further research by serious illness and death. Miss Fitzpatrick, after receiving her Master of Arts degree in English from the University of Nebraska in 1923 (her thesis was her work on place-names, and was done under the direction of Louise Pound), was deterred from completing work for a Doctor of Philosophy degree at Cornell University by tuberculosis. She never fully recovered from the disease, and died in 1935, while yet quite young. Link had no opportunity to do further work at all; he died in 1936, shortly after the death of Miss Fitzpatrick. He had taught geography for nearly a quarter century at Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska. It is pleasant to note that the new library building at Concordia bears his name, in recognition of many years of what his colleagues regarded as highly competent service.

The Fitzpatrick and Link books complement each other in an interesting way. Miss Fitzpatrick's sole concern was with the names of Nebraska communities—places of human settlement and governmental divisions. Not only did she limit the scope of her survey in this manner, but she set up something of a stylistic limitation in the tabular, alphabetical organization, much like that of a gazetteer, which she chose for the arrangement of her material. The result is an exhibition of most of the virtues and scarcely any of the faults which accompany such discipline and limitation of endeavor in scholarship. The book's organization makes possible the quick location of any community name studied by Miss Fitzpatrick, and her clear and simple style conveys her information directly and precisely. In my reading of the book I found only one statement which I knew to be incorrect, and it is peripheral in nature.\* But in statements more directly related to the study of names, there

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\* This is the remark made in the introductory paragraph on Cherry County (page 36), alleging that this county was at the time of its organization the largest in the United States. Actually this county, although the largest in Nebraska and greater in size than Rhode Island and Delaware, was at its creation and is now surpassed in area by several counties, most of them in the mountain and Pacific states.

seems to be so little error as to have called forth no protest or controversy at any time in the past thirty-five years. The book is reprinted entire in this volume, and this indicates how completely she fulfilled the task she set herself.

Link's book, on the other hand, is scarcely more than a hint of the massive quantity of material accumulated by his research. He set out on a far more inclusive quest than Miss Fitzpatrick's: to record and find the origin and meaning of every name then appearing on the map of Nebraska, and on some names (chiefly from Indian languages) which were no longer used. The headline of an article in the *Lincoln Sunday Journal and Star* (February 14, 1932) describing his work suffices to show the amount of information he acquired: "Nebraska Professor Works Eleven Years Finding 10,000 Place Names in State."

In the Preface to his book, Link describes not only the variety and completeness of his research, but the contrasting incompleteness of the published work.

The investigation includes approximately 10,000 place names in the state, that is the names of the counties, townships and precincts, cities, villages, post offices, forts, reservations, state parks, recreation grounds, trails, streams, lakes, springs, hills, buttes, bluffs, valleys, flats, etc.; names that have gone out of use and those that are still used; names given by the Indian and those applied by the white man.

Nebraska is the only state that has its place names worked out in such detail. It is impossible at present to publish a complete explanation of all our place names, hence only about one fourth of them are included and briefly explained in this bulletin, which is offered to the citizens of Nebraska and especially to the schools of the state as an educational contribution (pp. 7-8).

No single class of names mentioned in the quotation is discussed as exhaustively as the relatively few classes Miss Fitzpatrick took for her province. Doubtless Link would have published more of the material he had collected, if

his untimely death had not prevented it. As it is, he is the author of the only extended discussion in print of the names of the state's natural features. It is this section of his work, comprising Chapters VIII, IX, X, and XII of the original monograph, which forms the nucleus of Part Two of this volume. Also included are Link's remarks on the name of the state, chiefly to show his interest in and knowledge of the Indian languages of the area, which make his report on the subject somewhat fuller than Miss Fitzpatrick's; and his short chapter on some miscellaneous cultural features not considered in the Fitzpatrick study.

The diction and phrasing of Link's chapters have sometimes been altered to make their sense clearer and more precise. He chose to employ a straight expository style in his monograph, which is often less satisfactory for dealing with place-names than Miss Fitzpatrick's itemization. To his use of such a style may perhaps be traced his work's chief defect, which is the failure to list the county location for every place-name he discusses; but in an ordinary narrative style, often the only way to do this is by means of parentheses, too many of which encumber a printed page. I have attempted to supply county names, so bracketed, in connection with place-names which occur more than once in the state, to prevent confusion. With other names I have followed Link's own practice, inconsistent though it sometimes is.

This juxtaposition of the two monographs is necessary for anything approaching a complete study of Nebraska place-names. It will show the reader how two scholars, working in different disciplines and using different methods to achieve their ends and record progress toward them, may produce results that dovetail accurately enough to admit of such combination. It is a tiny illustration of what the phrase "community of scholars" may mean in practice.

Much certainly has been published on the names of Nebraska places. Much yet remains to be done. I mentioned before that the greater portion of the material gathered by Link has never been printed. Duplicate sets of his files are

in the possession of the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Conservation and Survey Division of the University of Nebraska, both in Lincoln. It would be a worthwhile project for some enterprising onomatologist, preferably one whose personal knowledge of Nebraska is considerable, to evaluate this material in the light of present-day standards of name study, and to make of it something as near to a definitive publication as is possible—perhaps a Nebraska gazetteer, one of the few to approach true comprehensiveness of content and approach.

The least explored subdivision of Nebraska names is that including designations of all kinds which have disappeared from the state map. The bibliographies appended by Fitzpatrick and Link to their studies contain no mention of two sets of publications maintained by the Historical Society which contain many such names: the series of *Nebraska Gazetteers* from 1878 to 1917, and the city directories of Lincoln and Omaha for the years between the acquisition of statehood and the end of World War I. Maps printed in the early years of Nebraska history also seem to have been little consulted by either writer. Here, too, is a subject deserving of study.

In my work of editing this book, my chief debt—of respect and admiration—is of course to Lilian Linder Fitzpatrick and John Thomas Link. For very material assistance in carrying out the project, I have in particular to thank Miss Mamie Meredith, Assistant Professor of English, Emeritus, University of Nebraska, whose suggestions for the preparation of this Introduction have been most helpful.

G. THOMAS FAIRCLOUGH



PART ONE

NEBRASKA PLACE-NAMES

by LILIAN L. FITZPATRICK



## PREFACE

This study of Nebraska place-names is as exhaustive as I could make it. Nevertheless it is not wholly complete. There are a few town names in many counties concerning which I could obtain no accurate information. Hence they are not entered. There are other names concerning which my information is deficient despite my best efforts. Moreover Nebraska is a large state and new towns are constantly springing up, especially in the remoter counties. I would like to have the record for the state as complete as possible. Additional information and corrective or supplementary material, where these may be needed, will be gladly received by me.

One could scarcely hope that a work entering such a multitude of details could be free from misstatements. Great pains were taken, however, to minimize the number of errors. Authoritative material is at hand for practically every statement made by me with regard to Nebraska place-names.

In obtaining the information incorporated in this work not only was all available literature collated but an extensive correspondence was maintained with hundreds of people throughout the state, including county, state, and United States government officials, editors, bankers, and local historians. In fact any one was approached who seemed to possess the information needed. The list of those giving assistance is too long to be included in full.

I am indebted to Professor Louise Pound of the Department of English of the University of Nebraska for the suggestion that a study of Nebraska place-names might be both valuable and interesting, and also for her aid during the progress of the work. I am under especial obligations to Grant L. Shumway, the historian of the western counties of Nebraska, for very material aid with reference to Scotts Bluff, Banner, Morrill, Box Butte, and Sioux counties. Dr. Melvin R. Gilmore gave his kindly attention to the place-names of Indian origin and made many valuable

additions and corrections. Hon. C. H. Morrill of Stromsburg gave valuable information in a number of instances.

Mr. D. T. Heynen, county clerk of Kimball county, contributed much of the information for Kimball county. Miss Mabel E. Swanson of Holdrege gave the same service for Phelps county, Mr. H. O. Smith of Lexington for Dawson county, Mr. S. C. Bassett of Gibbon for Buffalo county, Judge Ira E. Tash of Alliance for Box Butte county, J. W. Barton of Bartley for Frontier county, J. S. Dellinger of Astoria, Oregon, for Grant county, John Armour, county clerk, Gandy, for Logan county, Ira E. Cumpston of Tryon for McPherson county, John Howe of Stockville for Frontier county, J. C. Puckett of Indianola for Red Willow county, T. J. Scott, Register of Deeds, Kearney, for Buffalo county, Charles W. Meeker and James Burke, Imperial, for Chase county, Harold J. Cook, Agate, for Sioux county, J. E. Thackrey, Simeon, for Cherry county, Leslie Roseberry, Lincoln, for Cherry and Hooker counties, and Emma N. Andersen for Dodge county.

I am under many obligations to Professor T. J. Fitzpatrick. He financed the investigation, planned the method of procedure, suggested the arrangement of the material, and through the entire work was mentor, guide, critic, and proof reader. During my absence from Nebraska he continued the investigation and brought the work to its present state of completion.

LILIAN L. FITZPATRICK.

Bethany, Nebraska.

## INTRODUCTION

A study of Nebraska place-names reveals six general classes, as follows: (1) A class containing personal names, such as the surnames of early settlers, railroad officials, prominent men, etc.; (2) names derived from local features or characteristics, i. e., names descriptive of localities; (3) names transferred from foreign places; (4) Indian names; (5) original or coined names; (6) miscellaneous names. The same grouping holds for the names of Nebraska counties except that there are no original or coined names for counties. Of these groups the first includes over fifty per cent of the county names. At least eleven of these names are derived from presidents of the United States, for example Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Fillmore, Pierce, Lincoln, and Grant. The next largest group includes the counties named for famous generals. A few of these are Custer, Kearney, Logan, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, Wayne, and Hooker. Statesmen and men in politics also play a prominent part in county names, since sixteen per cent of the total number are derived from them. Two counties, Nuckolls and Dixon, are named for pioneers; and two, Harlan and Keith, are named for prominent local men. One county, Merrick, is named for a woman, Miss Elvira Merrick, wife of the representative who introduced the bill for the establishment of the county.

Among the counties the names of which are descriptive of localities are Valley, Rock, Saline, and Box Butte, all of which are derived from local characteristics. The names Antelope and Buffalo suggest that these animals were natives of the vicinities at the time the counties were named. The name Cedar is descriptive of the trees in this county. The name Frontier is both interesting and picturesque since it indicates that this county seemed to its namers to be located on the border of civilization.

Three counties, Lancaster, York, and Madison have names transferred from foreign places. Both Lancaster and York are names derived from counties in Pennsylvania

which in turn derived their names from counties in England. The name Madison is taken from Madison county, Wisconsin, from which the majority of settlers in the Nebraska county came.

Seven counties bear Indian names and one county, Red Willow, has for its name the English translation of an Indian word. Of these counties six, Cheyenne, Dakota, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Sioux, are named for Indian tribes. The seventh county, Keya Paha, has a name descriptive of the small hills in its vicinity. A direct translation of the words Keya Paha is "turtle hill". The remaining county, Red Willow, is a mis-translation of the Dakota name *Cha<sup>n</sup>-shasha Wakpala*, literally Red Dogwood Creek, this shrub being abundant along its banks.

The last and smallest class, that of miscellaneous names, includes only two county names. Banner and Garden. The name Banner is interesting and is rather unusual in the sense in which it is used. It was intended by its creators to indicate that this county would be the leading or "banner" county of the state. In this class may also be placed Garden county. Its creators expected it to become the "garden spot" of the state.

The majority of Nebraska towns have been given personal names, chiefly the surnames of pioneers, early railroad officials, and prominent men. Of these groups, the first is by far the largest, for over two hundred places named for early settlers may be recorded. Of this number about seventy places are named for their first postmasters to whom much credit is due for establishing the first means of communication with the outside world. Fifteen or more towns are named for their founders, some of whom were settlers and homesteaders and others members of town-site companies. The next largest group includes the towns named for early officials on the railroads. A few of these officials, such as those after whom were named Steele, Hastings, Sidney, and Blair, held important positions; but the majority were engineers, conductors, surveyors, and even

ordinary workmen. In the general classification of towns named for prominent men, the majority are named for men of national celebrity. Of this number Grant, Pierce, Monroe, Garfield, Lincoln, and Hayes are represented among the presidents. Several towns, however, e. g., Bancroft, Emerson, Dumas, Lowell, Dickens, Ruskin, and Byron, are named for famous writers of whom only three are American. Famous generals are remembered in the towns Grant, Havelock, Ord, Martel, Sheridan, and Kearney. Two of these generals, Martel, the eighth-century king of the Franks, and Havelock, the British general, were foreign leaders. Political leaders are prominent in the naming of many towns, some of the most important of whom are Gresham, Kennard, Cuming, Colfax, Calhoun, and Norris. De Soto and Frémont are represented among the explorers and Franklin and Gladstone among the famous statesmen. Two towns, Coleridge and Hartington, are named for English lords who happened to be traveling in this country at the time when the towns were established. Even the scientists are remembered, witness the towns of Huxley and Humboldt which were named by early Nebraska citizens who studied and enjoyed the works of these men. A number of towns are named for prominent women, including postmistresses, daughters and wives of postmasters, and wives of railroad officials. All of these women were residents in the localities named after them.

The next largest division includes names descriptive of localities, names derived from local features or characteristics. Among these are found Bluehill, Greenwood, Plattsmouth, South Bend, Grand Island, Middlebranch, Prairie Home, Falls City, Springfield, Palisade, and Pleasant Dale, all indicative of their localities. Ingleside is the name of one town, and according to its local meaning, "a thing of beauty", it is characteristic of the townsite. The name Papillion is interesting; it is Anglicized in pronunciation as are the names of other towns of French origin in Nebraska. Weeping Water is a translation of the French "L'Eau qui Pleure" and has an interesting Indian

legend connected with its name. Bellevue might now be spelled Belleview, and La Platte has the short American vowel in Platte, as have the other compounds of this word. The Spanish name, Valparaiso (vale of Paradise), is Anglicized in pronunciation. Roca ("rock") is another name from a Spanish source. Many towns are named for local rivers and creeks, and one town, Juniata, is named after a river in Pennsylvania. Six or more towns have some form of *rose* in their names, but not all of these are named for local characteristics, since Rosemont and Primrose are named for individuals. The word *rock* is popular in various forms of names, some of which, such as Table Rock and Guide Rock, have interesting histories. *Spring* is another popular word figuring in the names of not less than five towns. Popular suffixes are *-town*, *-view*, *-center*, *-city*, *-dale*, *-field*, *-port*, *-side*, *-ville*, *-ford*, and *-grove*. *Wood* is found both as a prefix and a suffix in the names Wood River and Greenwood. A few towns are indicative of occupations, such as Minersville, Brickton, and Milford, but this class is small in comparison with others. A number of towns, for example, Oak, Red Willow, Walnut, Linwood, and Pine Ridge have names descriptive of the trees found in their vicinities. Representatives of the animal kingdom are found in the names Antelope, Buffalo, Badger, Elk City, Beaver City, Swanton, and Pony Lake. There is a Blackbird and a Redbird, but these names are translations of Indian words.

Among the names transferred from foreign places are found Holstein, Scotia, Holland, Arabia, and Soudan, representative of different European and Asiatic or African countries. There are three towns in Nebraska: Minden, Norden, and Brunswick, that are named after cities in Germany, and three others: Hemingford, Naponee, and Lindsay, that are named after towns in Canada. Lodi, Genoa, and Ravenna are named after Italian cities, Belgrade after the Serbian capital, Preston and Staplehurst after cities in England, Cordova and Madrid after cities in Spain, Malmo and Gothenburg after cities in Sweden, and Bruno

and Prague after cities in Czecho-Slovakia. There is a Nebraska town named after a town in each of the following countries: Denmark, Wales, Cuba, and Palestine. Several towns have received names from biblical sources, such as Hebron, Salem, Lebanon, Bethel, Bethany, and Adnah. Omega doubtless takes its name from "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending" of *Revelation*. Among the names transferred from local places, at least twelve towns are named after towns in Illinois, ten towns are named after towns in New York, seven towns are named after towns in Iowa, and seven after towns in Massachusetts. From this it appears that the majority of immigrants came to Nebraska from these states. A few towns are named after foreign places other than cities and towns. Amherst is named for Amherst College in Massachusetts, Concord is named for Concord bridge battlefield, Kenesaw is named in memory of the battle of Kenesaw mountain, and Lexington in commemoration of the battle of Revolutionary days.

The Indian place-names found in Nebraska are very interesting, but they do not form a very large group. The majority have been changed both in spelling and pronunciation to suit the American tongue and are sometimes not easily recognized in their modern form. So it is with Omaha, and its variant the Maha tribe, and Pawnee which in its original form is Padani or Palani. Some Indian names are corrupted as a result of derivation from French forms. Sioux is an example of this, since it is derived from the French form, Nadowessioux, of the original Nadowe-is-iw. Brulé is also a French form of the Indian name for this tribe. A few names, however, are changed very little from the original, for example, Tonawanda from Tonawando or Tonawanta, Ponca from Pancas or Panka, Ogallala from Ogallat or Oglala, and Winnebago from Winnebaygo. The majority of towns bearing Indian names are named for Indian tribes of which the Nemaha, Sioux, Ponca, Ogallala, Winnebago, Minatare, and Omaha are a few of those which are represented. Indian names such as Anoka, Monowi, and Wahoo are found, most of which refer to local features

which characterize their vicinities. Among the Indian chiefs, remembered in Nebraska place-names, are Osceola, Tecumseh, Leshara, Fontenelle, and Red Cloud, all of whom are fairly well known. Fontenelle is the French name and Red Cloud is the American name of the last two of these chiefs.

Nebraska has a number of original or coined names which are interesting and unusual. Occasionally these names are formed from the names of individuals, as is the case with Cadams, originally C. Adams. Lewanna is interesting since it is formed from the names Lewellen and Anna. Enola is a name derived from the surname Malone which is spelled backwards with the *m* omitted. Macy is a name coined from the words Omaha Agency. Ohiowa indicates that the settlers in this vicinity came partly from Ohio and partly from Iowa. Sarben is the last two syllables of the word Aksarben, which in turn is a backward spelling of Nebraska. The settlers in the vicinity of Inavale gave their town its name simply because it is located "in a vale." Other names besides these are the result of local conditions or characteristics. Cornlea is formed from the words *corn* and *lea* or meadow, and the name indicates that corn is the prevailing crop in the vicinity of the town. Verdon is a word of more uncertain origin, but it is thought that this name is derived from the word *verdure*. The towns of Wynot and Winside have interesting histories. Wynot is an amalgamation of the words *why not* and the name is said to have arisen from the question "Why not name the town Why not?" Winside is the name that resulted from a controversy between the members of two town factions. The winning faction decided that theirs was the winning side and from this gave the town its name. There are a few towns the names of which seem to be pure coinages. Sartoria belongs to this class; its name is said to be the result of an arbitrary arrangement of letters from the alphabet. The name of one town, Nacora, is coined from a Spanish word, *nacio*, meaning "I am born".

Among the list of towns named for various unclassi-

fied reasons, some very interesting names are found. Magnet is an unusual name of peculiar significance, since it was expected to "draw people toward the town as the magnet stone draws iron". Enterprise and Opportunity are interesting names. The former points to a town made up of enterprising people and the latter promises an opportunity for advancement in the locality. Horsefoot and Keystone are two towns bearing the names of cattle brands. Gables and New Castle are names characteristic of houses in the localities of the towns. The latter name is rather amusing in origin, for the house referred to, although very ordinary in structure, is said to have been considered a new castle by its owner. The names Liberty and Freedom testify to the ideals of the American people. St. Ann and St. Mary derive their origin from Catholic institutions, the former a Catholic church, and the latter a parochial school. Occasionally a town bears a foreign name taken from the most popular language of the community. Of the names in this group, Hadar and Friedensau, both German in origin, and Dannebrog, of Danish origin, were selected by foreign emigrants. The name Wauneta, although given another and more phonetic spelling, is derived from the popular song *Juanita*, and Waverly is taken from the Waverley novel by Sir Walter Scott with omission of an *e*.

The present names of a large number of towns are not their original names. Approximately two hundred towns were found to have been renamed; but the actual number is probably much larger than this. The majority of these towns were renamed in order to fulfill the requirements of the United States post office department when offices were established; and also to satisfy the requirements of the railroads when they were built through the towns, or to conform to local and sentimental feeling.

Some of the place-names of Nebraska were carefully selected by those responsible for their naming, or have picturesque origins; but it is impossible to make a survey of the names of the state as a whole without a somewhat disconcerting realization of the casualness, or the caprice, with

which a large majority of their designations were determined.

A study of Nebraska place-names indicates that many towns of pioneer Nebraska have disappeared or have shifted location. The early towns were located along river routes or wagon roads. When the railways were built the lines of travel were often divergent from the water routes or wagon roads, thus leaving established villages isolated. A competing village was often located along the new route of travel in the neighborhood of an older village. A frequent result was the decay or disappearance of the less fortunate village even when it promised well in the beginning. In a few instances the older village was bodily removed to the new location. The relocation of county seats has led to the disappearance of quite a number of enterprising villages. In comparatively recent years the establishment of rural mail routes has caused the discontinuance of many inland post offices. Often a small village was associated with these places. After reviewing all these changing conditions it will be noticed that many of these inland villages persist to serve their neighborhoods and they grow or decay to meet the demands made upon them by the constituencies they serve. On the other hand many such inland places exist now only as memories. Their names still cling to the neighborhoods in which they were formerly located.

## NEBRASKA

Nebraska, the name of the state, is derived from an Omaha Indian name meaning "flat water." In the Omaha Indian language the name is Nibthaska; *ni*, water, and *bthaska*, flat. This name was given by the Indians to the Platte river because it is a broad, shallow body of water. It is from this river that the name Nebraska was taken for the state. One frequently reads the statement that the name Nebraska is derived from "Ne'-brath-ke" or "Ne'-prath-ke" from the languages of the Omaha and Otoe Indian tribes but these words are only approximations. There is no *r* in the Omaha Indian language. In the Otoe Indian language the name is Nibrathka; *ni*, water, and *brathka*, flat. A variant is Niprathka. The *p* and *b* are only approximate sounds.

## ADAMS COUNTY

Adams county was named in honor of John Adams (1735-1826), second president of the United States. Its boundaries were defined by an act approved February 16, 1867.

**Ayr.** This town was established in September, 1878, and was named in honor of a Doctor Ayr, of Iowa, who was at that time one of the directors of the Burlington and Missouri River railroad.

**Brickton.** Brickton received its name from its brickyard and brick manufacturing plant.

**Hansen.** The town of Hansen was named for a civil engineer by that name who lived in Saint Joseph, Missouri. He was employed by the Grand Island and Saint Joseph railroad in 1879 when the town was named.

**Hastings.** This city was named in honor of Colonel D. T. Hastings of the Saint Joseph and Grand Island railroad. In Gannett's *Place Names in the United States*, his initials are given as T. D. Colonel Hastings was instrumental in having the railroad built through the vicinity. Hastings is the county seat of Adams county.

**Holstein.** This town was named after Schleswig-Holstein, the northern peninsula of Germany. It was platted on July 22, 1887.

**Ingleside.** The name Ingleside means fireside, but local tradition claims that its meaning is *beauty* or *a thing of beauty*. The name was given because it seemed suitable for a town having such a beautiful location.

**Juniata.** The town of Juniata was named after the Juniata river in Pennsylvania.

**Kenesaw.** The South Platte Land Company surveyed this town in June, 1872, and named it after the battle of Kenesaw Mountain (1864), Georgia. The precinct has the same name.

**Pauline.** Mr. John M. Ragan, general attorney for the railroad, named this town in honor of his wife, Pauline S. Ragan, of Hastings, Nebraska. The town originated in 1887.

**Prosser.** Prosser was named in honor of T. J. Prosser of Concordia, Kansas, who was superintendent of the construction force that built the Missouri Pacific railroad through the town.

**Roseland.** This town was named by its first postmaster, B. F. Evans. Mr. Evans thought that the word "rose" should form a part of the name because so many wild roses grew in the vicinity. On consulting the United States directory of post offices, he found that there were many post offices of which "rose" formed part of the name; but there were only three Roselands, and therefore he selected this name. The town was surveyed in 1887.

## ANTELOPE COUNTY

Antelope county was named by Leander Gerrard, one of the first settlers. It is said that in the summer of 1867 or 1868, Mr. Gerrard was camping with a party of tourists in the Elkhorn Valley. They became short of provisions and while hunting Mr. Gerrard shot a fine antelope. This circumstance was remembered when a bill providing for the organization of the county was prepared and Mr. Gerrard suggested the name "Antelope" which was accepted by the legislature. The county was organized on June 15, 1871, as a result of an act approved March 1, 1871, which officially established the county and defined the boundaries.

**Brunswick.** Henry Nagle, one of the first settlers in the locality, named this town after Brunswick, Germany, a center of the beet industry. Mr. Nagle chose the name Brunswick because of the fact that he once raised an immense sugar beet on his farm.

**Burnett.** A former village in Burnett precinct, both named for the first superintendent of the Sioux City and Pacific railroad, now the Chicago and Northwestern. This village was the western part of what is now called Tilden, Madison county. The center line

of the principal north and south street of Tilden is the line between Antelope and Madison counties.

**Clearwater.** This town was surveyed and platted by the railroad company in October, 1881. It was originally named Antelope, but when the post office was established in 1880 the name was changed to Clearwater after the creek on which the town is located. The precinct has the same name. The name for the creek is a locally descriptive one, the soil being sandy the water is very clear.

**Copenhagen.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Crawford precinct. It was named after Copenhagen, Denmark, in honor of the Danish settlers in the vicinity.

**Elgin.** William Eggleston, a farmer in this vicinity, petitioned the post office department to establish an office at his home, and requested that it be named Eggleston in his honor. The post office department, however, objected to a compound name and returned the petition to the Oakdale post office. At this time E. Gailey was postmaster at Oakdale. Mr. Gailey turned to the post office official guide and under the list of post offices in Illinois, found the name Elgin, which he selected as a suitable name for the new office. He then returned the petition and the name Elgin was accepted.

**Frenchtown.** A precinct and a former post office on the west side of Antelope county. The early settlers were mostly French people, hence the name.

**Glenalpine.** A locality and former post office in Sherman precinct. It was so named because situated at the head of a branch of Verdigris river. This locality is bluffy and picturesque.

**Hord Siding.** A station on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad in Burnett precinct. The name is local in origin.

**Jessup.** This town was named in honor of a Mr. Jessup, erroneously stated by Andreas, *History of Nebraska*, as well as by Gannett, *The Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States*, to have been ex-governor of Iowa. He was probably Elias Jessup or Hardin county, Iowa, ex-state senator. No one by the name of Jessup was ever governor of Iowa. In the old long-hand documents the word "senator" is easily confused with "governor," hence the error.

**Neligh.** Niels Larsen, county surveyor of Cuming county, surveyed and platted this town in February, 1873. Mr. William B. Lambert suggested the name as a compliment to John D. Neligh of West Point, Nebraska, who was one of the first settlers and who bought the land on which the town is located. The precinct has the same name. Neligh is the county seat of Antelope county.

**Oakdale.** This town was surveyed and platted in 1872 by J. G. Taylor. The name Oakland had at one time been selected for the county because of the abundance of oak timber in the vicinity. On this account Mr. Taylor wished to name the new town Oakland; but when he found that there was already a town in the state by that name, he substituted the name Oakdale. Another account states that the town was named by I. N. Togler, a local land agent who located here in 1865. The precinct has the same name.

**Orchard.** D. L. Cramer made the first settlement here on September 17, 1880, and on July 1, 1881, the post office was established. The town received its name from an extensive orchard of apple trees which had been set out in the vicinity.

**Royal.** This town was first named Savage for a man by that name who promised to pay a certain amount if the town was named for him. He did not keep the promise, however, so the town was renamed Royal in honor of Mr. Royal Thayer. The precinct has the same name.

**Saint Clair.** This town was named in honor of its first settler, George Saint Clair, who made the first preemption claim in Antelope county.

**Vim.** An inland locality and a former post office in Stanton precinct.

## ARTHUR COUNTY

Arthur county was named in honor of Chester A. Arthur (1830-1886), president of the United States, 1881-1885. The boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 31, 1887.

**Arthur.** The town of Arthur was named for Arthur county of which it is the county seat.

**Braden.** This post office was so named in honor of an old settler in the vicinity by the name of Braden and also in honor of his daughter who was the first postmistress. The precinct has the same name.

**Carman.** Named after Reverend Carman, a minister serving in the Methodist Episcopal Conference. The first postmaster was H. N. Yarnall, now residing at Arthur, Nebraska.

**Collins.** Collins was one of three names suggested by the citizens of the vicinity for their post office. The post office department chose Collins because it was short and easy to distinguish.

**Cullinan.** This town was named for the Cullinan brothers who owned a ranch in the vicinity and formerly ran a merchantile business in the town. The Cullinan post office was recently moved

five miles east of its former location and the name changed to Bucktail.

**Hillside.** This town is so named because of its location on the side of a hill. The post office was established here in 1908.

**Lena.** The first post office in Arthur county was established at Lena in 1894 when the county was still territorial. Mrs. Lena Fellows was the first postmistress and the office was named in her honor.

**Read.** Read post office was named in honor of Henry B. Read, one of the early ranchmen in the vicinity. This office was discontinued on September 1, 1916.

**Rice.** Rice post office was named for Dr. C. S. Rice who was an early settler in this part of the state.

### BANNER COUNTY

Banner county was named by enthusiastic citizens who wished to make it the "banner county" of the state. According to G. L. Shumway, deputy secretary of the state department of agriculture, who had a hand in naming it, the name was decided upon because the county was, "to be the brightest star in the constellation of Nebraska counties." Banner county was formed from Cheyenne county by a vote taken November 6, 1888.

**Ashford.** This place is situated in Long township near Pumpkin creek. The post office was established in October, 1887, and named after William Ashford, the first postmaster. The post office has been discontinued.

**Bighorn.** This place is in Lone Pine precinct. The name was applied to a canyon on the south side of the valley in the vicinity as well as to a neighboring table mountain, during the time of the first grangers. During the pioneer period there were mountain sheep on the mountain which fact seems to account for the name.

**Epworth.** This name was given to the place because of the religious inclinations of the people of the vicinity. It is in Flower precinct.

**Flowerfield.** This is a neighborhood and post office near the line of Flower and Field precincts, in Field precinct, and was so named after the two precincts, also from the fact that the vicinity was a beautiful high table land, which at the time of its settlement in the '80's was covered with a profusion of wild flowers.

**Freeport.** This place was named by E. M. Cowen, the first postmaster and founder of the town, after Freeport, Illinois, which was near his old home.

**Gary.** The first postmaster of Gary, in Flower precinct, was William Reep and the post office was named in honor of James A. Gary, then postmaster-general in President McKinley's cabinet. The post office has been discontinued.

**Harrisburg.** So named by Mr. Schooley, a settler from Pennsylvania after Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Harrisburg, Nebraska, is the county seat of Banner county.

**Heath.** This place is in Lone Pine precinct. It received its name through the Scotch inspiration of an early settler named Mac-Latchky.

**Hull.** This town, in Hull precinct, was named for a former merchant and postmaster by the name of J. T. Hull who lived in the vicinity about forty years ago.

**Kirk.** Kirk post office was named in honor of its first postmaster. It is in Lone Pine precinct.

**Loraine.** This place is in Springs precinct. It was named for a relative of J. T. Bunger, the postmaster and an early homesteader.

**Van.** Van was only an inland post office in Field precinct, established at the home of T. A. Van Pelt and named for him. It was discontinued several years ago.

## BLAINE COUNTY

The boundaries of this county were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 5, 1885. The county was named in honor of James G. Blaine (1830-1893), the American statesman.

**Brewster.** This town is the county seat of Blaine county. It was named after George W. Brewster, its founder. Mr. Brewster was an early pioneer, a newspaper man, and a strong local character. He is now living in Denver, Colorado. The precinct has the name name.

**Cooper.** This post office was named after a Mr. Cooper, the postmaster when the office was established. The office has been discontinued.

**Dunning.** This village is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, in Dunning precinct. It and the precinct were probably named for a local resident.

**Edith.** This post office has been discontinued. It took its name because it was located in Edith valley. The precinct has the same name.

**Lucy.** A former inland post office near the center of Blaine county in Lucy precinct. The name is apparently for a local resident.

**Purdum.** This town was named in honor of John Purdum who was an early settler in the vicinity.

**Scheding.** This place is situated in what is locally known as German Valley. The town was named after Reverend Scheding, a German Lutheran minister. The post office has been discontinued.

### BOONE COUNTY

This county was first settled in 1871. It was named in honor of Daniel Boone, the noted pioneer and hunter of Kentucky. The county was organized by an act of the legislature approved March 28, 1871; the boundaries were defined by an act approved March 1, 1871.

**Albion.** This town was named after Albion, Michigan, which in turn was named after Albion, Maine. The latter town received its name from the poetical name for England. The county seat was located here by an act of the legislature approved February 25, 1873.

**Boone.** Named, like the county, in honor of Daniel Boone (1725-1820).

**Bradish.** The site of this town was chosen by a man from Chicago named George Bradish, engineer in charge of railway construction. It was for him that the town was named.

**Cedar Rapids.** Mr. Adam Smith laid out the town and named it after the beautiful Cedar river on the banks of which it is situated.

**Loretto.** This town was originally named Loran for Mr. Loran Clark who was one of the first seven homesteaders in the vicinity. Mr. Clark was a well educated man, active in politics, and one of the first representatives of Boone county. After the name Loran was taken for the post office there was conflict in some way with another post office in the state, so it was changed to Loretto.

**Petersburg.** Petersburg was settled in 1887 and named for John Peters of Albion, Nebraska, who was United States collector of internal revenue at Omaha, and who owned the land on which the town is located.

**Primrose.** This town was laid out on land belonging to David Primrose and was named for him. Mr. Primrose is now deceased.

**Saint Edward.** In 1871 Mr. A. T. Coquilliard of South Bend, Indiana, acquired the tract of land on which Saint Edward now stands from the Union Pacific Railroad Company. He and other early settlers named the village in honor of a catholic priest, Edward Serrels, who was then a prominent man in the Notre Dame univers-

ity at South Bend, Indiana. Mr. Coquilliard deeded the tract to the Saint Edward Land and Emigration Company in 1876 and at that time it was opened to the public.

### BOX BUTTE COUNTY

Box Butte county was named after a large butte situated about six miles north of Alliance. This butte is rectangular or box-shaped in outline. Box Butte county was formed from Dawes county by vote November 2, 1886.

**Alliance.** The town was founded in June, 1887, and named Grand Lake. The Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad opened a station for business on February 3, 1888. The name Alliance was given to the town by Superintendent G. W. Holdrege. He affirmed that Alliance was chosen for the reason that it was a single word, was different from the name of any other town in the state, was short, and would be near the top of the alphabetical list of the towns of the state. The name was accepted by the citizens, a post office established, a town-site platted, and the plat recorded as Alliance. It apparently was named after Alliance, Ohio. It is also the junction point of two lines of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railway which makes the name appropriate. This town is the county seat of Box Butte county.

**Berea.** This village was named after Berea, Ohio, by some of the early settlers, after their old home. The name derives from the ancient city in Macedonia.

**Birdsell.** This place in Boyd precinct, was named for an official of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, J. C. Birdsell, a popular division superintendent of the Burlington system.

**Burbank.** This inland place was located in Snake Creek precinct, near Snake creek. It was named after the local postmaster. The post office has been discontinued.

**Burns.** This inland place is in Snake Creek precinct. It was named after the local postmaster. The post office has been discontinued.

**Carpenter.** A former, inland post office near the southern boundary of Box Butte county, in Wright precinct. It was named after the local postmaster.

**Girard.** This is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Dorsey precinct. It was named by the officials of the railroad, probably after Girard, Ohio.

**Hashman.** This inland place was named after C. L. Hashman, the postmaster.

**Hemingford.** This town was named by Joseph Hare after his former home in Hemmingford, Canada, spelling the name however with only one *m*.

**Letan.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, near the southern boundary of the county, in Wright precinct. It was so named by the railroad officials.

**Marple.** See Sheridan county to which the post office was moved.

**Nonpareil.** Grant L. Shumway gives the following account of the naming of this place: "Nonpareil was the earliest town in Box Butte county, being the first county seat. As nearly as may be ascertained, it was named by Eugene Heath who started the newspaper called *The Grip* in this town. Because of the small size of the town and the establishment of the first newspaper, he selected the name Nonpareil, from the name of a very small or six-point size of type. The original name for this place was Buchanan, but Heath secured the change, through the United States post office department, to Nonpareil."

**Nye.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, near the northern boundary of the county, in Lawn precinct. It was so named by the railway officials.

**Yale.** A name given by the railway officials to the next station northwest of Alliance, on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad.

**Wiley.** A former, inland post office in Snake Creek precinct, named after the local postmaster.

## BOYD COUNTY

Boyd county was named in honor of James E. Boyd who was governor of Nebraska (1891, 1892-1893) at the time the county was organized. The county was established and its boundaries defined by an act approved March 20, 1891.

**Alford.** A village and a former post office near the southeast corner of Boyd county in Bush precinct, probably named for a local resident.

**Anoka.** Anoka is a Dakota Indian word meaning "on both sides." This town was named by the Pioneer Town-Site Company after Anoka, a town in Minnesota, in Anoka county. The Minnesota town is located on both sides of the Rum river. The Nebraska town, however, has no such river location. Villages in Indiana and New York also have the same name.

**Baker.** A village in the northern part of Boyd county in Ware precinct, probably named for an early local resident.

**Bristow.** This town was named in honor of secretary of the treasury, Benjamin H. Bristow, of President Grant's cabinet. It was platted in 1902 by the Pioneer Town-Site Company.

**Butte.** The name Butte was suggested for this town from the rocky upheaval of ground just south of the town-site. These upheavals or elevations can be traced from the Black Hills region in a southeasterly direction. It is thought that they were formed by huge icebergs which floated down and at intervals tipped off their deposits. There is no similarity between these deposits and the surrounding soil. Butte is the county seat of Boyd county.

**Gross.** The town of Gross was named in honor of B. B. Gross. Mr. Gross was one of the first settlers in this neighborhood and homesteaded the land on which the town is located. He was the first postmaster and later engaged in business here. At present he lives in Montana.

**Lynch.** A village on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad in Lynch precinct. The name is probably for an early local settler.

**Mankato.** An inland village near the center of Boyd county in Spencer precinct. It was doubtless named for Mankato, Blue Earth county, Minnesota, which is situated on the Minnesota river, a short distance below the mouth of the Blue Earth (or Mankato) river. Mankota is from the Dakota Indian word *Ma-ka'-to*, meaning blue earth.

**Monowi.** Monowi is an Indian name and means "flower." This town was so named because there were so many wild flowers growing in the vicinity. It is also claimed that Monowi is a word of some Indian language for a plant with milky juice or a sponge called snow-on-the-mountain (*Euphorbia marginata*).

**Naper.** The original homestead of one hundred sixty acres was filed by Ralph Naper who gave eighty acres for a town-site and called it Naper, after himself.

**Rosedale.** An inland village in Morton precinct. The name is a locally descriptive one.

**Spencer.** A man by the name of Sterns homesteaded in this vicinity and was the first postmaster. He came from Spencer, Iowa, and named this post office after his former home.

## BROWN COUNTY

Brown county was so named in honor of two members of the legislature who reported the bill for organization of the county.

Its boundaries were defined by act of the legislature approved February 19, 1883.

**Ainsworth.** Named in honor of Captain James E. Ainsworth, of Missouri Valley, chief civil engineer for the railroad during construction. The village was incorporated on December 2, 1883. Ainsworth is in Ainsworth precinct and is the county seat of Brown county.

**Alkali.** A locally descriptive name for a locality in the western part of Brown county in Moonlake precinct.

**Altai.** A locality and a former post office in Johnstown precinct. The name is from the Latin *altus*, meaning high or elevated. The place is on the watershed or divide, hence the name.

**Beardwell.** Beardwell was named for an elderly citizen who started a store and post office in the town about twelve years ago. Later he sold out and left the vicinity.

**Enderslake.** The post office and the lake in this town were both named in honor of J. E. Enders who owned the ranch on which the lake and fishing resort are located. The ranch consists of seven thousand acres of land. Mr. Enders settled in the vicinity in 1884.

**Giles.** This post office was established in 1897 and was named for its first postmaster, a man by the name of George Giles who settled in this vicinity about forty years ago. Mr. Giles is now living at Elsmere, Nebraska, and is past ninety-eight years of age. Gannett, *Place Names in the United States*, erroneously states that the office was named for Giles Mead.

**Huffman.** A locality and a former post office in Hester precinct, apparently named for a local resident.

**Johnstown.** The land on which Johnstown is located was homesteaded by John Berry who drove the mail stage through this vicinity to Fort Niobrara before the railroad was built. The town was named for him. He was right-of-way and pioneer man for the railroad during construction. The precinct has the same name.

**Lakewood.** A locality and a former post office in Moonlake precinct. The name is for the lakes in the vicinity. A neighboring precinct has the same name.

**Long Pine.** The first settlement was made by H. M. Uttley, May 13, 1878. The town was named because of its location on Long Pine creek. Long Pine creek was so named because of the large amount of pine timber growing along its bluffs. Long Pine creek is a translation of the Dakota name *Wazi-hovska Wakpala*, or the Omaha name *Mazi-snade Wachishka*.

**Mary.** This office was established about 1907 or 1908 and was named after the first postmaster, Mrs. Mary O'Neill.

**Midvale.** This place is located in Lakeland precinct in the middle of the valley or vale of the Calamus river, hence the name shortened to Midvale. The post office has recently been discontinued.

**Pike.** This post office is located near the center of Hester precinct and was named after the postmaster, Frank Pike.

**Raven.** A locality and a former post office in Smith Precinct. The name is probably local in origin.

**Spragg.** A village and a former post office in Hester precinct probably named for a local resident. Formerly the post office was in Rock county.

**Sunnyside.** A locally descriptive name for a locality and a former post office in Smith precinct.

**Winfield.** A village and a former post office near the northeast corner of Brown county in Pine Glen precinct. The name is probably for a local resident.

## BUFFALO COUNTY

Buffalo county was organized and its boundaries defined during the first session of the Nebraska legislature by an act approved March 14, 1855. It was so named because it was the feeding ground for many herds of buffalo.

**Amherst.** Established in 1890 when the branch of the Union Pacific railroad was extended from Kearney to Callaway in 1890. John N. Hamilton, the first president of the Kearney and Black Hills railroad branch from Kearney, suggested the name Amherst after the college in Massachusetts. This statement is made on the authority of William G. Nye of Kearney. Amherst, Massachusetts, was named for Lord Amherst (1717-1797).

**Buda.** On August 1, 1886, the Union Pacific railroad was completed to this point and a station was established. This station was named Kearney on account of its proximity to Fort Kearney. In 1872 the name was changed to Shelby because of its similarity to Kearney Junction, a town five miles distant. Later a station in the eastern part of the county was named Shelton and, because there was confusion of freight shipments, the town of Shelby again changed its name. This time, according to local tradition, it "was called Buda after an old religious center," but more probably either directly or indirectly after Buda, now part of Budapesth, Hungary.

**Butler.** Situated in Valley township. Named after General Benjamin F. Butler when a candidate for president of the United States on the Greenback ticket.

**Denman.** A village on Elm island in the southeastern part of Buffalo county, in Shelton township. The name is after a former owner of the site and a pioneer of the neighborhood, Francis Marion Denman (1839-1917), a Civil War veteran. On an early government map the island is named Denman island.

**Elm Creek.** Located in Elm Creek township. The town was named after Elm creek, a small tributary of the Platte river, which runs by the town and empties into the Platte near by. Elm creek was so named because of the presence of many elm trees in the vicinity.

**Gibbon.** Located in Gibbon township. This town and its township were named in honor of Major-General John Gibbon (1827-1896), a graduate of the United States Military Academy in 1847. General Gibbon served in the Mexican and Civil wars and on the frontier against hostile Indians.

**Glenwood Park.** This name was given to the village after a near-by park located on Wood river.

**Kearney.** Originally named Fort Childs. Later the name was changed to Kearney Junction and finally shortened to Kearney. The last name was given to the town in honor of General Stephen Watts Kearny (1794-1848), who served in the War of 1812 and the Mexican war, and until 1857 the name was spelled without *e* in the final syllable. The town was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved January 4, 1860. Kearney is the county seat of Buffalo county. Gannett, *Place Names in the United States*, affirms, probably erroneously, that Kearney was named for General Philip Kearny (1815-1862), prominent in the Mexican and Civil War.

**Luce.** Situated in Gardner precinct. Named after the first postmaster and storekeeper. The post office has been discontinued.

**Majors.** Situated in Cedar township. It was named in honor of Colonel T. J. Majors, of Peru, Nebraska. The post office has been discontinued.

**Miller.** This town was named after Dr. George L. Miller of Omaha, member of the printing firm of Gibson, Miller, and Richardson, and who at one time owned land in this vicinity. In a deed he provided that if a railroad were ever built in the vicinity the town was to be called Miller. Robert Miller homesteaded in the vicinity in 1874.

**Nantasket.** A name of Indian origin for a neighborhood where a branch of the Union Pacific crosses the Chicago, Burlington, and

Quincy railroad. A town was platted and promoted but fell into decay as it was too near Ravenna. The name derives from Nantasket, Massachusetts.

**Odessa.** Originally named Crowellton after Daniel A. and D. Allen Crowell who were homestead settlers in the vicinity in 1871. There was some confusion in mail, however, because of the similarity of the names Crowellton and Carrolton; hence in the winter of 1873-1874 the citizens of Crowellton met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Knox and selected the name Odessa for the town. The name comes from Odessa, Kherson, the city by the Black Sea. There is also an Odessa, Ontario.

**Optic.** This place is a station on the Union Pacific railroad between Gibbon and Buda. It was named by the officials of the Union Pacific railroad.

**Peak.** A settler by the name of Peake homesteaded in Rusco township in 1874 and secured the establishment of a post office. The post office has long since been discontinued but the name still applies to the neighborhood.

**Pleasanton.** Located in the beautiful valley of the Loup river which was known locally in the early settlement of the county as Pleasant valley. In 1890 a branch of the Union Pacific railroad was extended from Nantasket to this point, and the new town was named Pleasanton after the valley.

**Poole.** This town was established in 1889 under the name of Poole Siding which later was shortened to Poole. Both names were given the town in honor of W. W. Poole who came to the vicinity and started a ranch in 1876.

**Ravenna.** Known as Beaver Creek until 1886 when the present town-site was laid out by the Lincoln Town-Site Company. The name Ravenna was selected by R. O. Phillips, a member of the company, after the ancient city of Ravenna, Italy. It is interesting to note that the streets in this town are also given Italian or other ancient names, such as Genoa, Verona, Seneca, Padua, Pavia, Alba, Syracuse, Corinth, Carthage, Sicily, Piedmont, Utica, Milan, and Appian Way (now Grand Avenue).

**Riverdale.** Established in 1890. This town and Riverdale township in which it is situated were so named because of their location in the beautiful and fertile Wood River valley of the Platte river.

**Saint Michael.** Established by the Lincoln Land Company in 1886. An Irishman named Mike Kyne owned the land on which the town is located and he told the company he would sell it to them cheap if they would name the town Saint Michael. Mr. Kyne

was a homestead settler in the vicinity in 1879 and now resides in Ravenna, Nebraska.

**Sartoria.** This name was coined by Mr. John Swenson, a homestead settler in the county in 1874. Mr. Swenson writes that he made many combinations of letters before he finally decided upon the present arrangement. His special aim was to form a name which was euphonious in sound and which no tongue could mispronounce. He also gave the name Sartoria to the township in which the village is located.

**Shelton.** Known as Wood River Center until February 3, 1873. On this date the name was changed to Shelton in honor of N. Shelton, an auditor in the land department of the Union Pacific Railroad Company. The township is also named Shelton in his honor.

**Sweetwater.** This is a station on the Burlington and Missouri River railroad, now the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, in Beaver township. It is situated on Sweetwater creek from which it takes its name. The creek was so named because of the excellent water which was found there in pioneer days.

**Watertown.** Established in 1890. This place is a station between Amherst and Miller and has a water tank for railway engines. There is no town, only a neighborhood. The post office was recently discontinued.

## BURT COUNTY

Burt county was named in honor of the first governor of Nebraska Territory, Francis Burt. It was founded in 1854. Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved February 18, 1855. They were redefined January 10, 1862.

**Argo.** This place is an inland village in Craig precinct. Several villages in the United States have this name, formerly one in Carroll county, Illinois, as well as another in Crawford county, Missouri. The name derives from the Greek *argo*, *argos*, swift, in Grecian mythology the ship of the Argonauts commanded by Jason. A large southern constellation, the ship, has the name Argo.

**Basford.** An inland village in the northern part of Burt county near the northeastern corner of Everett precinct, probably named for Basford, England.

**Bertha.** An inland village near the southeastern corner of Everett precinct. It was probably named for a local resident.

**Craig.** Craig was named for William Stewart Craig, a man who owned the land on which the town was located when the railroad was built.

**Decatur.** In the fall of 1855 the Decatur Town and Ferry Company located this town. The company was composed of Peter A. Sarpy, B. R. Folsom, T. J. Hinman, and Stephen Decatur for whom the town is named.

**Golden Spring.** This town is so called because of its proximity to a beautiful spring by that name. The spring flows from the rock and is noted for the purity of its water.

**Lyons.** Lyons is named for Mr. Waldo Lyon who came to Burt county from Arizona in 1869.

**Oakland.** An early settler, John Oak, purchased the site of Oakland in 1862, and the town is named for him.

**Peak.** A station on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha railroad in Craig precinct. The name is probably for a local resident.

**Tekamah.** The town of Tekamah was founded on October 7, 1854, by Colonel Benjamin R. Folsom and eight companions from Utica, New York. It is located on an old Indian camping ground or village. The surrounding hills were used for burying grounds and the highest point on the bluff where the city reservoir is now located, was used as a fire signal station. The origin of the name "Tekamah" is not definitely known. Some say it means "big cottonwood" and others say it means "the field of battle." Colonel Folsom is said to have named the town Tekamah because the site was surrounded by cottonwood trees, but there is a report that an early settler, W. N. Byers, gave the town its name in commemoration of some place in the far west where he once visited or resided. The county seat was located here by an act of the legislature approved February 18, 1855. The town was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved March 14, 1855.

**Zion.** A station on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha railroad in Craig precinct. A number of villages in the United States have this name derived directly or indirectly from Mount Zion, Palestine.

## BUTLER COUNTY

Butler county was named for David Butler, the first state governor of Nebraska, 1867-1872. Its boundaries were defined and the county established by an act of the legislature approved January 26, 1856.

**Abie.** In 1877 a man by the name of Stevens filed an application for a post office in this vicinity. The application was granted and in honor of his wife, Abigail Stevens, he named the office Abie.

**Bellwood.** Bellwood was named by Mrs. Mary B. Finch in hon-

or of Jesse D. Bell, the founder of the town. Mr. Bell owned a section of land in this vicinity at an early date and planted three rows of trees on each side of the road around the section and six rows each way across. Some of these trees have made a wonderful growth and are being taken out and sawed into lumber. A year ago 80,000 feet of lumber were cut from one little spot. On account of the trees, flowers, and shrubbery that were continually planted by Mr. Bell, Mrs. Finch decided that Bellswoods would be an appropriate name for the town. Later the name was shortened to Bellwood. It is said that as a result of Mr. Bell's work, only one other place in Nebraska (Arbor Lodge at Nebraska City) has a greater number of different species of trees, bushes, and shrubs. Mr. Bell died on January 4, 1889, in his home adjoining Bellwood. The trees were all small at this time but since then have grown to be large, fine trees that make a monument to the man who founded the town.

**Brainard.** The Union Pacific Railroad Company named this town in honor of David Brainard who was a celebrated Missionary to the Indians.

**Bruno.** The first settlers in this vicinity were Moravians. They named the town after Brno (Brünn), the chief city of Moravia, Europe. This name was difficult for the Americans to pronounce so it was changed by the railroad company to Bruno.

**David City.** This town the county seat of Butler county, was named for a Mrs. Miles whose maiden name was David. Mrs. Miles deeded a large tract of land for the town-site and on this account it was named in her honor. It is also stated that the city was named for David Butler, the first state governor. George L. Brown is authority for the statement: "The new town was christened Davids City, in honor of Mr. Davids, a friend and relative of Mr. William Miles, patron and part owner of the site." Later the "s" was dropped for convenience. (See *Trans. Neb. State Hist. Soc.* 4:295). It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved March 18, 1878.

**Dwight.** This post office was originally named Lone Star. When the site of the office was changed in 1883, the population of the town was mostly from Dwight, Illinois, so it was decided to name the new office Dwight, Nebraska. Henry Glover the postmaster, had the change effected. In 1887 the railroad was built and the town took the name of Dwight after the post office.

**Garrison.** This town was named by its surveyor, Mr. Sargent, for William Lloyd Garrison, the pioneer leader of the anti-slavery movement in the United States. Mr. Sargent was a Massachusetts man and a great admirer of Mr. Garrison. The precinct is called Union as an expression of a sentiment of the American people.

**Linwood.** When this locality was first settled in 1857 several of the inhabitants wished to call it Skull Creek because the site was that of an old Indian battlefield and skulls were to be found everywhere along the stream. The matter was discussed with a pioneer resident, Mrs. Sara Johnson, who did not like the name Skull Creek. She was asked to suggest a better name and chose Linwood, after the linn or basswood trees along the creek. This name was finally adopted.

**Loma.** Loma is situated in Richardson township in the southeastern part of Butler county. The name is supposedly given to the place by the officials of the Union Pacific railroad but why is not known. *Loma* is a Spanish word for a little hill or hillock, rising ground in the midst of a plain, a slope, and this may have had something to do with the selection of the name.

**Millerton.** This place was named for William P. Miller, an early settler and a large land owner in the vicinity.

**Octavia.** This town was named in honor of Mrs. Octavia Speltz, wife of Allen Speltz, a prominent farmer in the vicinity. It was laid out by the Pioneer Town-Site Company in 1857.

**Rising City.** This is a station on the Union Pacific railroad in Reading precinct. It was named for the owners of the town-site, A. W. and S. W. Rising.

**Surprise.** Surprise was so named by the settlers because they were surprised to find the land so much better than they expected it to be after their first tour through this part of the country.

**Ulysses.** This town was named for General Ulysses Simpson Grant (1822-1885). The precinct has the same name for the same reason.

## CASS COUNTY

Cass county was named in honor of General Lewis Cass (1782-1866), the American statesman and patriot. Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 7, 1855, redefined January 26, 1856.

**Alvo.** This town was named by the post office department in Washington, D. C., and apparently without reference to any person or place.

**Avoca.** The site of Avoca was platted in 1857. It was located in Avoca precinct and the town was named after the precinct. The name is probably derived from Thomas Moore's poem, "Sweet Vale of Avoca." A river of Ireland and many towns in the United States have this name.

**Cedar Creek.** In the early days the creek just west of this town had many cedar trees along its banks and so it was called Cedar creek. When the town was laid out in 1865 it was named after the creek.

**Eagle.** Shortly after 1872 a conference of the settlers was held at the home of Mr. Edwin Post, three and a half miles northeast of the present site of Eagle. This meeting drew up a petition for the establishment of a post office and chose the name Eagle. When the post office was established Mr. Edwin Post became the first postmaster. A few years later the office was moved a few miles farther northeast and the name changed to Sunlight. Three or four changes of location followed with an occasional change of name. Later the post office was moved to a country store located at the cross-roads just east of the present site of Eagle and the former name of Eagle restored. Mr. J. A. Blanchard, the proprietor of the store, was the postmaster and he continued in that capacity for several years after the village of Eagle came into existence. The town of Eagle was founded in 1886 on the advent of the Missouri Pacific railroad and took its name from the post office in the vicinity. The name was probably adopted because of the presence of the eagle (bird) in the vicinity during the pioneer period.

**Elmwood.** This post office was established in Stove Creek township in 1866 and located two and a half miles north and one mile east of the present site, near a grove of large elm trees. The first postmaster, David McCaig, named the place Elmwood after the local grove of trees.

**Greenwood.** This town received its name from Greenwood creek, a small stream emptying into Salt creek about two miles northeast of the town. Greenwood creek was named in honor of a Mr. Greenwood, an early settler, who lived near the creek a short distance from its mouth. A neighboring precinct has the same name. Gannett's work on place names states that the village received its name from J. S. Green, an early settler.

**Louisville.** There are several current reports as to the naming of Louisville. A man whose father owned the land now occupied by Louisville before the town was platted believes that it was named for Louisville, Kentucky, which seems its most probable origin. Another old settler thinks the town was named in honor of the American explorer, Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809). Still another old settler says that the town received its name from a man named Louis who operated a little one-burr grist-mill on the bank of Mill creek which runs through the town. Louisville was laid out in January and platted in February, 1857. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved February 10, 1857.

**Manley.** This town was first called Summit and later its name was changed to Manley. About forty years ago there were three ranchmen living in the vicinity and it is thought that the town was named for them.

**Murdock.** Murdock takes its name from one of the members of the town-site company. This company owned the town-sites of several of the small stations along the Rock Island railroad in Nebraska.

**Murray.** This town was first called Fairview, but when it was found that there was another Fairview in the state, the name was changed to Murray. The present name was given the town in honor of the Reverend George L. Murray who was pastor of the United Presbyterian church and a very influential man in the town.

**Mynard.** Mynard was named for Mynard Lewis, a former civil engineer on the Missouri Pacific railroad.

**Nehawka.** This town received its name in a peculiar way. When the government granted a post office to the farmers along the north branch of the Weeping Water creek, Isaac Pollard, one of the settlers, stopped at the post office department in Washington, during a trip to the east, to select a name for the new office. He wanted to use the Indian name for "Weeping Water", but the only one he could find was too hard to pronounce. Finally he came across the word "Nehawka" which meant something else, but which he thought sounded well, and so this name was agreed upon. Nehawka is a white man's approximation to the Omaha and Otoe Indian name of the creek, Nigahœ, which does not mean "weeping water" but means the sound of water as it runs over low falls, that is "rustling water." See Weeping Water.

**Plattsmouth.** Plattsmouth, the county seat of Cass county, was so named because of its location at the mouth of the Platte river. It was laid out and platted by O. N. Tyson, surveyor for the Plattsmouth Town Company, in November, 1854. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved March 14, 1855.

**Rockbluff.** A locally descriptive name for a village on the Missouri river in Rock Bluff precinct.

**South Bend.** South Bend was so named because of its geographical location on the south bend of the Platte river. It was laid out in 1857.

**Union.** Soon after this vicinity was settled a post office was established and named Union in harmony with sentiments prevalent during that decade of the Civil War. Later the town was founded and named after the local post office.

**Wabash.** Some of the early settlers in the community came from Indiana and at the time the town was platted named it after Wabash, Indiana.

**Weeping Water.** This town is situated on the creek called by the French "L'Eau qui Pleure", or "The Water that Weeps", and is named for the creek. There is an interesting Indian tradition concerning the origin of this stream. It is said that near the source of the river once lived a powerful and peaceful tribe governed by a mild and valorous chief. The warriors of the tribe were strong and fleet. The maidens were lithe and lovely and their beauty exceeded that possessed by the maidens of any of the neighboring tribes. The chief's daughter was the fairest of all and so beautiful, indeed, that the chief of a powerful tribe in the west fell in love with her and asked her father for her hand in marriage. He was refused, but one day succeeded in abducting her while she was bathing with her companions in a lake near the village. Pursuit immediately followed with disastrous results, for all of the pursuers were killed in the fight. After three days waiting, the women who had been left in charge of the camp started out in search of the warriors and found them dead on the battlefield. This caused them to weep so long that their tears formed the river "Weeping Water", which still exists. The town was incorporated February 13, 1857.

The Omaha and Otoe Indian name of the creek is Nigah<sup>oe</sup>, from *ni*, water, and *gah<sup>oe</sup>*, the rustling, swishing sound of water running over low falls, or "rustling water." The *ho* is an *h* with a guttural sound. The name was confused by white men with Nih<sup>o</sup>age which means "weeping water" from *ni*, water, and *hoage*, weeping. The legend of "weeping water" is a white man's tradition or invention to account for the word "weeping water", a mistranslation as stated above.

## CEDAR COUNTY

Cedar county was so named because of the presence of cedar trees in the locality. It was organized and the boundaries defined by an act of the legislature approved February 12, 1857. Its boundaries were redefined January 13, 1860.

**Aten.** The town of Aten started in 1881. It was named for its postmaster, John Aten, who was a former state senator from Cedar county.

**Belden.** This town was named for Scott Belden who was paymaster on the "short line" railroad built from Sioux City to O'Neill in 1890. Mr. Belden came from Maquoketa, Iowa, to Sioux City.

**Coleridge.** Mr. Whitten, General Superintendent of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha railroad named the town

in honor of Lord Coleridge who was visiting in the United States at the time.

**Fordyce.** The town was named in honor of William B. Fordyce who was a train dispatcher on the railroad for over twenty-five years.

**Hartington.** About a year before the country was visited by Lord Coleridge (for whom Mr. Whitten named the town Coleridge), Lord Hartington had visited the United States. Paralleling the naming of Coleridge after Lord Coleridge, Mr. Whitten named Hartington for Lord Hartington. Hartington is the county seat of Cedar county.

**Laurel.** This town was platted by W. M. Martin who organized the Original Town-Site Company of Laurel. It was named for Mr. Martin's daughter, Laura, who is now Mrs. Elmer Everett of Sibert, Colorado.

**Magnet.** B. E. Smith, owner of the town-site, named the town after the magnet stone, with the hope that it "would attract people as the magnet attracts iron." The town was established in 1893.

**Obert.** This town was originally named Oberton in honor of an officer on the railroad. The government, however, had trouble because of confusion of the mail of Oberton and Overton. Therefore the "on" was dropped from Oberton and the office was called Obert.

**Randolph.** The town of Randolph was named by F. H. Peavey of Minneapolis, in honor of Lord Randolph Churchill, 1849-1895, of England.

**St. Helena.** The location for this town was selected and named by Carl C. P. Myer who was the first settler in the vicinity in 1858. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved October 20, 1858.

**Saint James.** This place is an inland locality in precinct 5. A village was laid out and named by Col. C. C. Van and Moses H. Deming who came here in 1856 from Des Moines, Iowa.

**Saint Peter.** An inland village in the northeastern part of Cedar county, named for John Peter Abts, the first settler.

**Wareham.** This place is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad. It was probably named for Wareham, Massachusetts.

**Wynot.** The name Wynot is an amalgamation of *why not*, which was the reply given to the person who suggested the name when he asked, "Why not name it 'Wynot?'" It is said, according to a local tradition, that there was an elderly German in this vicinity whose answer to all questions was "W'y not?" The boys and girls

imitated him and later the older citizens caught their habit and answered "W'y not?" to all questions. As a result of this the town became Wynot.

### CHASE COUNTY

Chase county was named in honor of Champion S. Chase who was at one time mayor of Omaha, Nebraska. The county was organized in 1886. The boundaries were defined by an act approved February 27, 1873. Mr. Chase was the first attorney general of the state.

**Best.** Best post office was named in honor of its first post-mistress, Mrs. Ethel M. Best, who began her term of office in 1902. It is an inland post office in the southwestern part of Chase county in Valley precinct.

**Blanche.** A post office in the northeastern part of Chase county in Enterprise precinct. It was named after the daughter of G. C. Davis, the first postmaster.

**Champion.** The town of Champion was named in honor of Champion S. Chase, late of Omaha, Nebraska. The precinct has the same name.

**Chase.** This post office took its name from the county in which it is situated. This post office is in Macedonia precinct.

**Enders.** This town was named for a ranchman who lived in the vicinity. The town was laid out by the Lincoln Land Company and was so named by the company.

**Imperial.** Thomas Mercier homesteaded the land on which this town is located and also laid out and named the town-site. Mr. Mercier was an emigrant from Canada and it is supposed that he named the town either after a town in Canada or after the British Imperial government. Imperial is the county seat of Chase county. The precinct is also named Imperial.

**Lamar.** Named after Lucius Q. C. Lamar, secretary of the interior in President Cleveland's cabinet and later an associate justice of the supreme court of the United States. The precinct has the same name.

**Wauneta.** The town of Wauneta was named by its early settlers after the popular song *Juanita*. It was the intention to keep the spelling of the name of the song but since there was already a town in Nebraska named Juniata, the spelling was modified to Wauneta in order to prevent confusion. Gannett's account of place names erroneously states that *wauneta* is an Indian word meaning "winter camp." The precinct is also called Wauneta.

## CHERRY COUNTY

Cherry county was named in honor of Lieutenant Samuel A. Cherry, Fifth United States cavalry, who was murdered May 11, 1881, about eight miles north of Fort Niobrara, near Rock creek, Dakota. The boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved February 23, 1883. The claim is made that it is the largest county in the United States.

**Arabia.** Henry V. Ferguson of Sioux City, Iowa, auditor for the railway, named this town after Arabia in Asia because he imagined that the soil in the vicinity resembled the desert sands of Arabia. This assumption proved incorrect, however, for the soil was found to be very fertile.

**Banner.** A former post office in Wells precinct.

**Big Creek.** The original post office was situated in Big Creek valley, the headwaters of Big Creek, and the name of the valley and creek was given to the post office.

**Brownlee.** When this town was first established there were two brothers-in-law in business as partners. Their wives were sisters whose maiden names were Brownlee and this town was named for them.

**Burge.** This post office was named in honor of Toney Burge, a stock grower in the vicinity.

**Calf Creek.** A locality and a precinct in the southern part of Cherry county, named after Calf Creek valley which is an old river bed.

**Capwell.** A locality and a former post office in Buffalo Lake precinct, named for Mr. Allen B. Capwell, an early homesteader in the vicinity.

**Cascade.** J. F. Keller suggested the name Cascade for the post office here and it was accepted by the department at Washington.

**Cashswan.** A locality and a former, inland post office in the southern part of Cherry county, named after the postmaster, Cassius Swan, who shortened his name to Cash Swan.

**Cherry.** This post office was established in 1907 and named by Mrs. R. F. Osborne, wife of the postmaster, after the county in which it is situated.

**Chesterfield.** This post office was established by a Mr. Waite on his ranch on Boardman's creek in 1896 or 1897. It is stated that Mr. Waite (a scholar and a "gentleman," a little above the rest of the "natives") named his post office "Chesterfield."

**Cody.** This town was named for Thomas Cody of Iowa who was a foreman of the water supply construction gang while the railroad was being built in the vicinity in 1885.

**Crookston.** Crookston was named for W. T. Crook who was a yard master of the railroad at Valentine when the railroad was being built through this part of the state. The Pioneer Town-Site Company platted this town in 1894. The precinct has the same name.

**Curlew.** Curlew post office was named for the bird, curlew, there being quite a number in the vicinity when the office was established. It is in Steen precinct, in the southern part of Cherry county. There is also a place or neighborhood called Curlew in the northeastern part of Cherry county, in the eastern part of Schlagle precinct.

**Eli.** This town was named for Mr. Daniel Webster Hitchcock whose nickname was "Get-there-Eli." Mr. Hitchcock at that time worked for a locating engineer (Captain J. E. Ainsworth) in the vicinity. At first the town was called the full "Get-there-Eli", but when it was permanently named only the last part of the nickname was used. The precinct has the same name.

**Elizabeth.** This post office was named by its postmaster, John M. Nehling, in honor of his eldest daughter, now Mrs. William H. Wilkinson of this place.

**Elsmere.** This place is situated near the southeastern corner of Cherry county, in Elsmere precinct. It and the precinct were probably named after Mrs. Humphry Ward's one time popular novel entitled *Robert Elsmere*. The office was established in 1899 on the homestead of Parkerson R. Giles, the first postmaster.

**Enlow.** A locality and a precinct in the western part of Cherry county, named after William Enlow, a local resident.

**Erik.** Erik post office was named by Mrs. Erik P. Eriksen in honor of her husband. It is in Kinneyville precinct. In 1924 Mr. Eriksen was elected county judge of Hooker county.

**Ethel.** A locality and a former post office in Buffalo Lake precinct, named after the daughter of Mr. Luenstra, the postmaster and a homesteader.

**Fern.** The post office here was established at the home of K. F. Kimes and named in honor of his second daughter. This office was discontinued about a year ago. The precinct has the same name.

**Gilaspie.** A locality and a precinct in the central part of Cherry county, named after Robert F. Gilaspie, a local ranchman.

**Harmony.** The school district in this vicinity was named after a district in Iowa. Later when a post office was established it also took the name of Harmony. Harmony is in Table precinct.

**Hire.** Hire post office was named in honor of a pioneer, John C. Hire, at whose home the office was first established. Hire is near the northeast corner of Cherry county in Sparks precinct.

**Irwin.** This town was named in honor of Bennett Irwin who started the first cattle ranch in the surrounding country, one time foreman of Newman's ranch. The precinct has the same name.

**Kennedy.** This office was named after B. E. B. Kennedy of Omaha, Nebraska. The precinct has the same name.

**Kilgore.** This town was named in honor of one of the first settlers in the vicinity.

**King.** King post office was named in honor of its first postmaster, a Mr. King, the local storekeeper.

**Kinneyville.** A locality and a precinct in the southern part of Cherry county, named by the men of the Standard Cattle Company that had headquarters here, for Mr. Kinney, a resident in the vicinity.

**Lackey.** A locality and a precinct in the southern part of Cherry county, named after Mr. Lackey, an old resident in the vicinity.

**Lake.** A locality and a former post office in Barley precinct, so named because of numerous lakes in the vicinity.

**Lavaca.** This place is located in Lavaca precinct. It and the precinct were probably named after a river, county, and bay in Texas. The name is a corruption of *les vaches*, the cows, given by the French explorer, La Salle, because of the presence of many buffaloes. An erroneous local surmise is that the place was named after an original postmaster. It is probable that the name was imported by some of the Texas men connected with the Zeke Newman's Twelve Mile ranch located in the vicinity.

**Lewanna.** The name for this post office was formed by a Mr. Lewellen on whose ranch the office was established. He wished to name the office Lewellen, but since there was already a Lewellen post office in the state, he combined part of his own name with the name of his daughter, Anna, into Lewanna.

**Lund.** The first postmaster was Alfred Lund after whom the village is named. The village is on the east side of Russell precinct.

**Martindale.** This place is in King precinct and doubtless was named after James O. Martin, the postmaster. The post office has been discontinued.

**Merriman.** This post office was named for John Merriman, train master in charge of construction trains on the railroad at the time when the road was built through the vicinity. The name was

first spelled Merryman, but when the post office was established the spelling was changed to Merriman.

**Middle Prong.** A locality and a precinct in the southern part of Cherry county, named after the middle prong of the Loup river which runs through the precinct.

**Nenzel.** This town was named in honor of George Nenzel, an early settler and owner of the land on which the town-site is located. The precinct has the same name.

**Newton.** This post office was established in 1897 and named after Isaac Newton Russell, an early local settler, who worked for the establishment of the post office. It is on Boardman's creek in Gilaspie precinct.

**Oasis.** This post office was established in 1890 at the ranch home of William H. Stratton who named it Oasis because the location had much sand with a small lake near the house. Afterwards the post office was moved to another place and later discontinued.

**Prentice.** Prentice was named for its postmaster, Benjamin F. Prentice who established the office in October, 1906, and has been postmaster since that time.

**Pullman.** The Pullman post office was named for the Pullman brothers, William, Philip, and John, who homesteaded the site of the old Pullman office at an early date. This office was recently discontinued.

**Reeves.** A locality and a precinct in the southern part of Cherry county, named for a local settler from Virginia.

**Riege.** Named after Peter Riege, the first postmaster, who settled on the Niobrara river in 1881.

**Rita Park.** Rita Park post office was named by A. L. Stewart, now on the staff of the Nebraska State Journal at Lincoln, for his daughter Rita. This office has been discontinued. It was in Calf Creek precinct.

**Rolf.** This post office was named in honor of the youngest son of Charles M. Kime who at one time conducted the post office and a little store at his ranch home. It is near Boardman's creek in the southeastern part of Enlow precinct.

**Roxby.** Roxby is an abridgment of Roxbury. The town was named after Roxbury Station, Connecticut.

**Simeon.** This post office was established during the summer of 1885 at the ranch home of Simeon Mortgareidge and was named for him. Elias Stillwell was the first postmaster.

**Soudan.** This town was named after the Soudan region in central Africa, south of the Sahara and Libyan deserts. The name

is derived from a word meaning black or "the land of the blacks." The town of Soudan, Nebraska, was so named because it is located in the Black Hills region.

**Sparks.** This place is situated near the northeastern corner of Cherry county in Sparks precinct. It and the precinct were named after early local residents. Four brothers, Eldon, James Allen, Charles, and Levi Sparks settled in the vicinity and laid out a town on the land belonging to Eldon and named it Sparks after themselves.

**Survey.** Survey post office was first located in Survey valley and received its name from this source. The valley was called Survey because the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad ran a railway survey through the vicinity from O'Neill to Alliance.

**Thatcher.** This place was named for James M. Thatcher, the United States post trader at Fort Niobrara. Thatcher is in the northeastern part of Schlagle precinct.

**Trouble.** A locality and a former, inland post office in the west central part of Cherry county, presumably so named by Lerton Jay, the postmaster.

**Valentine.** This town was named in honor of Edward Kimball Valentine who for three terms, from 1879 onward, was congressman from this district. Valentine is the county seat of Cherry county.

**Vian.** Vian was named after Millard W. Vian, the first postmaster, and an old settler in the vicinity.

**Wells.** This place is in Wells precinct in the southern part of Cherry county. It and the precinct were so named because a local settler had put down a number of desirable wells in the vicinity.

**Wood Lake.** This town was named after a near-by lake which is situated on the west side and on whose shores was practically the only timber to be found in the locality. The precinct has the same name.

## CHEYENNE COUNTY

Cheyenne county was separated from Lincoln county on June 6, 1871. It was named after the Cheyenne tribe of Indians, members of the Algonquian family who were at one time residents of the vicinity.

**Brownson.** Brownson is a station on the Union Pacific railroad in Bronson precinct. It and the precinct were probably named for an early local settler.

**Clara.** Clara is an inland locality in Bronson precinct. It was probably named after a local resident.

**Colton.** Colton is a station on the Union Pacific railroad in Colton precinct. It and the precinct were probably named after a local resident.

**Dalton.** Dalton is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in the northern part of Cheyenne county. It was probably named for Dalton, Massachusetts.

**Dye.** This post office is located in the southwest part of Cheyenne county, in Chambers precinct, near the west county line. It was named for Lida F. Dye, the postmaster.

**Henry.** Henry is an inland place in the northern part of Cheyenne county in Valley precinct. It was probably named for a local settler.

**Herndon.** Herndon is a station on the Union Pacific railroad in Bronson precinct.

**Higgins.** Higgins is an inland locality in Davison precinct. It was named for a local settler.

**Ickes.** Ickes is located in Davison precinct. It was named for Adam Ickes, an early county treasurer.

**Leafdale.** This post office is situated in Trodnitz precinct and was named after Anthony M. Leafdale, the postmaster.

**Lodgepole.** This town received its name from Lodgepole creek. Lodgepole creek was so named because the Indians cut so many lodge poles for their tepees from its banks. The precinct has the same name. Lodgepole creek is a literal translation of the Dakota name, *Tushu Wakpala*.

**Lorenzo.** Lorenzo is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in the southern part of Cheyenne county.

**Margate.** Margate is a station on the Union Pacific railroad in Sidney precinct.

**Potter.** Named after General Potter, at one time commander of troops in western Nebraska and a shareholder in the Union Pacific railway. The precinct has the same name.

**Sextorp.** This is an inland place in the northwestern part of Cheyenne county in Trodnitz precinct.

**Sidney.** The town of Sidney was named in honor of Sidney Dillon, a New York attorney, who was general solicitor in New York for the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Mr. Dillon was a man of high intellectual attainments, the author of Dillon's *Municipal Law, etc.* His position with the railroad company brought him recognition in the naming of the towns along the railroad. At the time Sidney was named it was regarded as an important place on account of its being the railroad terminus of the route to the Black

Hills, and also because it was the site of a government fort. Sidney is the county seat of Cheyenne county. The precinct has the same name.

**Sunol.** Sunol is a station on the Union Pacific railroad in Lodge Pole precinct.

**Weyerts.** Weyerts is an inland locality in the northern part of Lodge Pole precinct. It was probably named for an early settler.

## CLAY COUNTY

Clay county was named for Henry Clay, the Kentucky statesman. The boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 7, 1855, and again established and the boundaries defined by an act approved January 26, 1856, and redefined February 16, 1867.

**Clay Center.** This town was surveyed in the summer of 1879. It was located in the center of the county by R. G. Brown and was named by him on account of its central location. It is the county seat of Clay county.

**Deweese.** Deweese was named for a James W. Deweese, attorney for the Burlington railroad. Mr. Deweese was a resident of Lincoln where he died some years ago. He was a member of the law firm of Marquette, Deweese, and Hall. Deweese post office has the distinction of being the only one by that name in the United States, although there is a settlement called Deweese in Mississippi.

**Edgar.** The town of Edgar was named for the son of a pioneer named Ed Graham, who settled in the vicinity. A previous name of the town was Eden.

**Eldorado.** The name is Spanish and means the gilded or golden. The soil in and around this town-site has a yellowish cast and because of this the town was so named.

**Fairfield.** This town was originally named White Elm. Later the name was changed to Frankfort. When it was discovered that there already existed a town called Frankfort in the state, the name was again changed to Fairfield. The name Fairfield was given the town by the railroad company in conformity with its alphabetical system of designating the sites along the road, probably after Fairfield in Illinois or in Iowa. The name refers to the beauty of the surrounding fields. The precinct has the same name.

**Glenvil.** Glenvil was originally named Georgetown or Dogtown. The latter was a nickname given the town because it had more dogs than citizens. When the name was first changed, the spelling of the new name was Glenville. There were, however, at

least ten Glenvilles in the United States, and as a result so much mail was missent that Glenville, Nebraska, changed the spelling of its name to Glenvil. This change affects only the name of the post office, for the incorporated town is Glenville. The name Glenville was given the town by the railroad company in conformity with its alphabetical system of naming.

**Harvard.** Named by the officials of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad Company (in conformity with its alphabetical system), after Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Inland.** This name was transferred from an old town in Adams county. The present town dates back to about 1878. It was named by the railroad company in conformity with its alphabetical system and is supposed to have reference to its locality (inland, not on the coast).

**Ong.** This town was platted on August 22, 1886. It was named in honor of Judge J. E. Ong who owned the land on which the town is located. The original name was Greenberry, after Greenberry L. Fort, a large land owner in the vicinity.

**Saronville.** Reverend Haterius, a Swedish Lutheran minister named the local church Saron, after a small village in Sweden. When the post office was established it was named Saronville, after the local church.

**Springranch.** A post office was established at Spring Ranche in 1870. The first settlement in the vicinity was made on June 8, 1864. The town was so named because of the presence of numerous springs of water in the locality. The precinct has the same name. The United States postal guide prints the name as one word. On the railroad maps it appears as two words.

**Sutton.** This locality was entered as a homestead on March 14, 1870. The town-site was named after Sutton, Massachusetts.

**Trumbull.** The village of Trumbull was named in honor of a railway official.

**Verona.** Originally called Sweden. The name was changed to Verona in 1884 in honor of a family by the name of Veronica that lived in the vicinity at that time. The Veronica family played an important part in the development of the town. The above is the local account of the origin of the name and seems authentic. There are about twenty towns in the United States with the name of Verona, most if not all of which were named for Verona, Italy.

## COLFAX COUNTY

Colfax county was originally a part of Platte county. By an act of the legislature approved February 15, 1869, this county was divided and Colfax county was named for Schuyler Colfax who was then vice-president of the United States. The boundaries were re-defined March 3, 1873.

**Clarkson.** Clarkson was platted by the Western Town Lot Company in October, 1886. It was named in honor of Mr. T. S. Clarkson, the first postmaster of Schuyler, Nebraska, because he helped to establish a post office in the new town. Mr. Clarkson was later postmaster of Omaha.

**Howell.** This town is called Howells by the railroad company and Howell by the post office department. It was platted in August, 1886, by the Western Town-Site Company and named in honor of J. S. Howell, a prominent citizen of Colfax county.

**Leigh.** The land on which Leigh was platted was owned by Mr. A. M. Walling. The town was named for Mrs. Walling whose maiden name was Leigh. It was platted in October, 1884.

**Praha.** A Bohemian community in Midland precinct, named after Prague, Bohemia.

**Richland.** The village of Richland was platted under the name of Spitley in September, 1884.

**Rogers.** This town was platted in October, 1886. It was named after an official of the Union Pacific railroad. The town-site was owned by Jacob McCall, candidate for governor of Nebraska in 1896, and a Mr. Leflang of Plum Creek, near Lexington, Nebraska.

**Schuyler.** The county seat of Colfax county was located at Schuyler in 1869 the same year that the county was separated from Platte county. Like the county, the town was named for Schuyler Colfax (1823-1885) who was then vice-president of the United States.

## CUMING COUNTY

The boundaries of Cuming county were defined by an act of the Territorial Legislative Assembly passed in 1855 and approved on March 16, 1855. The boundaries were redefined by an act approved February 12, 1857, and January 10, 1862. The county was named in honor of Thomas B. Cuming, acting governor of the Territory of Nebraska in 1854-1855 and 1857-1858. A precinct, a creek, and formerly a village in the county have the same name for the same reason.

**Aloys.** An inland village near the southeast corner of Bismarck precinct.

**Bancroft.** This town was named in honor of George Bancroft, the American historian.

**Beemer.** Originally called Rockcreek. Later the town-site was changed and the name changed to Beemer in honor of A. D. Beemer, the founder of the new town.

**Bismarck.** An inland village in the northwestern part of Elkhorn precinct, named for the German statesman, Prince Karl Otto Eduard Leopold von Bismarck-Schönhausen (1815-1898). A neighboring precinct has the same name for the same reason.

**Cuming.** An inland village in Neligh precinct, named for Thomas B. Cuming, after whom the county was named.

**Germanville.** An inland village in the southern part of Cuming precinct, so named in compliment to the German settlers.

**Monterey.** An inland village in Monterey precinct, named directly or indirectly for the battle of Monterey, Mexico.

**West Point.** This town, the county seat of Cuming county, was so named because when located it was the most westerly point that was settled in the Elkhorn River valley. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved October 29, 1858. Its founder was John D. Neligh (1831-1896) who settled on the present site of West Point in 1858.

**Wisner.** The settlement of Wisner dates back to 1865. The town was named in honor of Samuel P. Wisner, vice-president of the railroad company at that time.

## CUSTER COUNTY

Custer county was named in honor of General George A. Custer, the gallant Indian fighter who was killed at the battle on the Little Big Horn river in the summer of 1876. The organization of the county was approved on February 17, 1877, and its boundaries were defined at this time. A precinct in the county has the same name for the same reason.

**Anselmo.** This town was named for Anselmo B. Smith, a civil engineer who platted the towns along the Burlington railroad for the Lincoln Town-Site Company. Anselmo was platted on November 20, 1886.

**Ansley.** The first settlement was made here in the summer of 1886. The town was named in honor of a lady who invested a large sum of money in real estate in the newly platted town.

**Arnold.** This town was named in honor of George Arnold who located in the vicinity in 1875. Mr. Arnold was a member of the ranch firm of Arnold and Ritchie. The town was laid out in 1883. The precinct is also named Arnold.

**Berwyn.** The Lincoln Town-Site Company laid out the town of Berwyn in 1886. It is believed to have been named after a railroad surveyor. A previous name was Janesville.

**Broken Bow.** Broken Bow was located and platted in June, 1882. The name was suggested to the post office department by Wilson Hewitt who found on an old Indian camping ground in the vicinity a broken bow and arrow. Mr. Hewitt had suggested three different names for the town-site to the post office department, all of which were rejected. After the third name had been rejected, he came upon the broken bow and immediately decided upon the name, feeling sure that there was no other town by that name in the state. It is not known who was the owner of the broken bow, or any other facts concerning it. The bow was partially destroyed, but a fragment still remains. It is owned by E. R. Purcell, editor of the Custer County Chief. Broken Bow is the county seat of Custer county.

**Callaway.** The town of Callaway was surveyed and platted in the spring of 1885. It was named in honor of S. R. Callaway, at that time general manager of the Union Pacific railroad.

**Climax.** This town was named Climax by Mrs. Mary T. Ewing who owned the farm on which the post office is located, and who had charge of the office when it was established.

**Comstock.** W. H. Comstock moved a store building from Westcott and located on this town-site so it was named in his honor. The site was surveyed in 1899.

**Cumro.** The town of Cumro was named by William Edmunds after Cumro, Wales.

**Dale.** The post office at Dale was named for its first postmaster a Mr. Daley. The settlers here wished to name the office Daley, but Mr. Daley objected so they called it Dale. This office has been discontinued.

**Elton.** Named after Elton, New York. The postoffice has been discontinued for several years.

**Etna.** A former inland post office near the southwestern corner of Custer county, in Wayne precinct. The name is probably of local selection.

**Gates.** An inland post office in Lillian precinct. It was named for a local resident.

**Huxley.** Huxley post office was named by J. M. Lowry (deceased), the first postmaster at this office. Mr. Lowry named it for Thomas H. Huxley, the scientist, whose works he admired and studied.

**Lillian.** Hugh Gohean was the first postmaster in this town. The office was named in honor of his second daughter, Lillian Gohean. The precinct is also named Lillian.

**Lodi.** This place was named after Lodi, a city in Italy.

**Lomax.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad in Wood River precinct, apparently named for E. L. Lomax, assistant general passenger and transfer agent, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Mason City.** There are two theories concerning the naming of Mason City. One is that the early settlers in the vicinity named it for Mason county, Virginia, from which they had come to Nebraska. The second theory is that the Lincoln Town-Site Company named the town Mason in honor of Judge O. P. Mason of Lincoln. The latter theory is generally accepted. The post office, however, refused to accept the name Mason, because of probable confusion with Macon; so the town is Mason City to the post office department and Mason to the railroad.

**Merna.** Samuel Dunning was the first postmaster here and the town was named for his daughter Merna.

**Milburn.** James Milburn established the Milburn post office on December 1, 1887, and it was named in his honor.

**Milldale.** A station on a branch line of the Union Pacific railroad, in Triumph precinct. It apparently was named for a mill site along a near-by creek, the South Loup river.

**Oconto.** This town was located in the fall of 1887. It was to be called Olax but the name was changed because of its similarity to Lomax, Nebraska. It received the name Oconto from a man by that name, according to local tradition; but doubtless the name is for Oconto, Oconto county, Wisconsin. Oconto is a Menominee Indian word meaning the "place of the pickerel."

**Ortello.** Ortello was named for Grove Ortello Joyner. The town was first called Ortello Grove and later shortened to Ortello.

**Sargent.** The town of Sargent was laid out in 1883. The founders were E. P. Savage and Joseph W. Thomas. A few years previously a post office was located over a mile east of the town-site with Mrs. George Sherman postmaster. She chose the name, Sargent which was the name of some friends who lived in her old home town, Streeter, Illinois. When the town was founded Mrs. Sherman agreed to surrender the post office and permit its removal to the new town on condition that the name remain Sargent. This was agreed to by the founders, as Mr. E. P. Savage had wished to name the town after his uncle, George D. Sargent, a banker of Davenport, Iowa, later a resident of New York City, and an official of the Great Northern railway.

**Walworth.** This town was named in honor of a Mr. Walworth who operated a line of lumber yards in Nebraska at the time Walworth was established.

**Weissert.** The name Weissert was suggested for this post office by the department at Washington. The office was established in 1892.

**Westerville.** The location here was originally known as Elm Bridge. The town of Westerville was named in honor of its first resident, James Westervelt, who established a store in the vicinity in the fall of 1880. The precinct has the same name.

**Yucahill.** A locality and a former post office in the north-western part of Custer county in Hayes precinct. It was so named because of the prevalence of a liliaceous plant known as bear-grass or Spanish bayonet (*Yucca glauca*) in the vicinity.

### DAKOTA COUNTY

Dakota county was named for the Dakota tribe of Indians. The word *Dakota* means *allies* or *brothers*, according to the usual interpretation, but it is really an ancient word having the idea of sodality or society of friends in the mystical sense of a peculiar people. The white man's name for this tribe was Sioux. The boundaries of the county were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 7, 1855, redefined January 26, 1856.

**Covington.** Covington, originally Harney City, next Newport, then finally Covington, was first taken as a town-site in 1856. It was named for the Covington, Columbus, and Black Hills railroad. The town was consolidated with South Sioux City on May 1, 1893.

**Dakota City.** The Dakota City Land Company surveyed and platted this town in 1855-56. The town was named for the Dakota tribe of Indians. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved October 21, 1858. It is the county seat of Dakota county.

**Goodwin.** This town was named in honor of John C. Goodwin who was one of the railroad officials in 1892 when the town was established.

**Homer.** The town of Homer was surveyed and platted in 1874. It was named for the poet of ancient Greece.

**Hubbard.** The Dakota City Land Company laid out this town in 1880. Judge Asahel W. Hubbard was the first president of the Covington, Columbus, and Black Hills railroad and the town was named for him.

**Jackson.** The town was originally called Franklin but the name was changed because there was already another post office in the state with that name.

**Nacora.** The name of this town was formed from the Spanish *nacio* which means "I am born."

**Sioux.** The original town-site, called South Sioux City, was washed away by the Missouri river. The present town was incorporated on January 4, 1885, and was named for the Sioux tribe of Indians who had a reservation in the vicinity.

**Vista.** This town was originally named Brady in honor of a pioneer family in the vicinity. Later the name Vista was chosen because of the picturesque views surrounding the town.

### DAWES COUNTY

Dawes county was named in honor of James W. Dawes, former governor of Nebraska, 1883-1887. Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved February 19, 1885.

**Antelope.** Formerly a post office situated in Antelope township. The office and township were named for the antelope of the plains.

**Belmont.** This town was named after an official of the Burlington railway system. C. L. Phelps, now of Bellevue, Nebraska, was the first postmaster.

**Bordeaux.** The town of Bordeaux was named for Bordeaux creek on which it is located. The creek was named in honor of Pierre Bordeaux, a French trapper and trader on this stream, who came from Bordeaux, France, and took his name from that city.

**Chadron.** This town was platted in 1885 by the pioneer Town-Site Company and named in honor of Pierre Chadron, a French-Indian "squaw-man," who lived and trapped on a river in the vicinity. He was at one time a trader for the American Fur Company of St. Louis, Missouri, and was stationed at "Winter Quarters" on the mouth of the Cheyenne river near Fort Pierre. Chadron is the county seat of Dawes county.

**Crawford.** The town of Crawford was named for Captain Jack Crawford (John Wallace Crawford, 1847-1917), "the poet scout," who was stationed at Fort Robinson during the eighties. Captain Crawford was a soldier, scout, poet, lecturer, as well as a noted Indian fighter.

**Dakota Junction.** So named because the branch line of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad to the Black Hills joins the main line to Wyoming.

**Dunlap.** The first postmaster of Dunlap was a Mr. Roberts, a soldier of the Civil War, and he named the place after an officer under whom he served, probably Brigadier-General James Dunlap.

**Esther.** A former, inland post office in Antelope precinct, probably named for a local resident.

**Fort Robinson.** This town was laid out by Colonel W. H. Carter and named after Fort Robinson military post which was located in the vicinity. This post was named by the United States War Department in memory of Lieutenant Robinson who was killed by Indians just before the post was established.

**Hough.** There is no particular reason for calling this post office Hough except that it was necessary to change the name of the former office "Huff" because there was already an office by that name in the state. The spelling H-o-u-g-h was suggested and accepted by the United States post office department.

**Ida.** A former, inland post office near the line of Antelope and Table precincts, named probably for a local resident.

**Manchester.** An inland place in the northeast central part of Dawes county, named by the settlers for an eastern town. Many towns in the United States have this name, most of which derive it directly or indirectly from Manchester, England.

**Marsland.** This town was named after Thomas Marsland, of Lincoln, Nebraska, who was at the time general freight agent of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad.

**Pine Ridge.** There is a ridge of pine timber running across this part of the state, that is called Pine Ridge. The Pine Ridge post office was named after this ridge.

**Wayside.** The name of this town has no historic significance but is purely fanciful. The name was suggested by the railroad workmen as descriptive of the place in an early day when it consisted of a section house by the side of the railway and was an occasional stopping place for the trains.

**Whitney.** This town was originally named Dawes City. Later it was named Earth Lodge, and finally Whitney. The latter name was given the town in honor of Peter Whitney who was the Pioneer Town-Site agent for the railroad at the time.

## DAWSON COUNTY

Dawson county was formed on June 26, 1871, by a proclamation of acting governor William H. James. The county was established and its boundaries defined by an act of the legislature approved January 11, 1860. Its boundaries were redefined by an act approved June 6, 1871. The county was named for a Nebraska pioneer, presumably Jacob Dawson, of Iowa and Nebraska, the first postmaster of the old town of Lancaster, now Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Buffalo.** The town of Buffalo is so named because of its location on Buffalo creek. The precinct has the same name. The name of the creek derives from the former presence of buffalo in the vicinity.

**Buzzards Roost.** A station on a branch of the Union Pacific railroad in Kennebec precinct, also a ranch near by owned by the late John B. Colton, a survivor of the Death Valley episode. The land about the station is rough and isolated, formerly the habitat of buzzards, hence the name.

**Cozad.** This town derives its name from its founder, John J. Cozad, head of a company of pioneers from Ohio in 1873. It is in Cozad precinct.

**Darr.** This place was named after George B. Darr, owner of the site, formerly a banker in Lexington, Nebraska, later a resident of Omaha.

**Doss.** This is an inland place name in the northern part of Logan precinct. It was named after a local resident, a colored boy, who worked on a ranch in the vicinity and carried the mail from Overton.

**Eddyville.** This village in Kennebec precinct, is on a branch of the Union Pacific railroad, formerly known as the Kearney and Black Hills railroad, and was named by the railway promoters after Eddyville, Iowa, which in turn was named for J. P. Eddy, an early post trader in the vicinity.

**Farnam.** The first settlement in this vicinity was made in 1883 by a company from Pennsylvania. The town was located in the summer of 1887 and was named in honor of an official on the Burlington railroad, apparently Henry W. Farnam, the noted railroad builder.

**Gothenburg.** This town was named by Mr. E. G. West after Gothenburg, Sweden. The precinct has the same name.

**Josselyn.** This village was named after an official of the Union Pacific railroad, S. T. Josselyn, paymaster, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Lexington.** The town was organized in 1878 as Plum Creek and was situated on the south side of the Platte river on the overland trail. In 1886 the city was incorporated and in 1889, at a meeting of the citizens, the name was changed from Plum Creek to Lexington in commemoration of the battle of Lexington of the War of the Revolution. The precinct has the same name. This town is the county seat of Dawson county.

**Overton.** James N. Potter and his family made the first settlement here in June, 1873. The town was named in April, 1871, in honor of a government official who at that time had charge of the

men guarding the workmen who were grading and laying the track for the Union Pacific railroad in the vicinity. The precinct has the same name.

**Simonds.** This is a station on the Union Pacific railroad, near the southeastern corner of the county. It was so named by the officials of the railroad.

**Sumner.** This town was named in 1888 for Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts who was the first senator to advocate the freedom of the slaves. The town-site was laid out in 1890.

**Willow Island.** The first settler was Joseph Huffman who located here in 1873. The town was named after a large island, ten miles long and one mile wide, located directly south of the town-site. Before the advent of prairie fires the island was a wilderness of willows.

## DEUEL COUNTY

Deuel county came into existence as a result of an election held in November, 1888, and was organized in January, 1889. Previously it was a part of Cheyenne county. It was named in honor of Harry Porter Deuel (1836-1914), a pioneer citizen of Omaha, Nebraska. He was in turn local official for a Missouri river transportation company, the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, and the Union Pacific railroad.

**Barton.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad in Big Springs precinct, apparently named for a local resident.

**Bigspring.** So named because a large spring is situated on one side of the town, the water of which flows through it. The precinct is called Big Springs.

**Chappell.** This town was organized in honor of John Chappell, president of the Union Pacific railroad. Mr. Chappell assisted in laying out the town-site. Chappell is the county seat of Deuel county. The precinct is also called Chappell.

**Day.** A pioneer, inland post office near the northeastern corner of Deuel county in Big Springs precinct. It apparently was named after a local resident.

**Froid.** A pioneer, inland place in the northern part of Swan precinct on the high table land. *Froid* is the French word for cold and because of the coldness of the climate in certain seasons it is probable the place was so named.

**Perdu.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad in Chappell precinct. It was named for an individual.

**Ralton.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad.

## DIXON COUNTY

Dixon county was first settled in 1856 by a small colony of Irish who took up claims along the valley of South creek. It was named by the state legislature in honor of an early pioneer. It was organized and its boundaries defined January 26, 1856, and November 1, 1858. They were redefined January 13, 1860.

**Allen.** The town of Allen was named in honor of Henry Allen, a pioneer who homesteaded in 1870 the land on which the town is located.

**Concord.** Marvin Hughitt, president of the Chicago, Saint Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha railroad, named this town after Concord (bridge) battlefield in Massachusetts.

**Dixon.** This place was named after the county in which it is situated.

**Emerson.** The original town-site of Emerson was platted in 1883 and was named for the author, Ralph Waldo Emerson.

**Ionia.** An inland village on the Missouri river in the north-eastern part of Dixon county in Ionia precinct. The name derives from Ionia, Greece. Ionia, Ionia county, Michigan, may have suggested the name for the Nebraska village and precinct.

**Limegrove.** The town was so named because of its location on Lime creek. The first settlement here was made in 1867 by John Maskell and H. Farsnoy.

**Martinsburg.** The first settlement in this locality was made by Jonathan Martin in 1872. In 1874 the town was laid out and named Martinsburg in honor of the oldest settler, Jonathan Martin.

**Maskell.** Maskell was named by the Saint Paul Town-Site Company in honor of Mr. A. H. Maskell, owner of a section of land in the surrounding country. Mr. Maskell has been sheriff of Dixon county for twenty-four years.

**Newcastle.** This town was named by Gustavus Smith who built the first house in the vicinity and called it his "new castle." The building was later used for the post office.

**Ponca.** Ponca was named for the Ponca tribe of Indians who owned and roamed over its hills. The town was surveyed and platted in 1856. It is the county seat of Dixon county. The precinct has the same name.

**Wakefield.** The settlement of Wakefield was begun in August, 1881. The town was named in honor of L. W. Wakefield who was engineer of the surveying party that built the line of the Saint Paul and Sioux City railroad through from Emerson to Norfolk.

**Waterbury.** This place is so named because there is a large spring near the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad station which supplies the water for the railway watering tanks.

### DODGE COUNTY

Dodge county was named in honor of Augustus Caesar Dodge, (1812-1833), United States senator from Iowa and an active supporter of the Kansas-Nebraska bill. It was organized and its boundaries defined by an act of the first territorial legislature and approved on March 6, 1855, redefined November 2, 1858, December 22, 1859, and reorganized January 13, 1860.

**Ames.** This town was named after an official of the Union Pacific railroad, presumably Oakes Ames. Ames, Iowa, was named for Oakes Ames.

**Crowell.** A man by the name of Crowell started the first elevator in this vicinity and the town was named for him. It was laid out in Pebble township on December 22, 1883.

**Dodge.** This town was named in honor of an early settler, George A. Dodge. It was platted by the Pioneer Town-Site Company in 1886.

**Everett.** An inland locality in Everett precinct. The name is probably for a local settler.

**Fremont.** The town of Fremont was platted in 1856 and named in honor of John C. Frémont (1813-1890), an explorer and guide known as the "Pathfinder." It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved November 2, 1858. Fremont is the county seat of Dodge county.

**Hooper.** Located in Hooper township. The town was named for Hon. Samuel Hooper of Boston, Massachusetts, who was a prominent member of Congress during the Civil War.

**Ihno.** This post office was formerly located in Maple township. It was named for Ihno Harms on whose farm the office was located. The office has been discontinued.

**Leavitt.** Named for the Leavitt sugar factory; the firm formerly had a branch factory here.

**Mapleville.** An inland village in Cotterell precinct. The name is arboreal in origin.

**Nickerson.** The town of Nickerson was founded by Reynolds K. Nickerson and named in his honor. Mr. Nickerson was a contractor and had charge of a section for a railroad. At one of his camps he erected some supply stores, blacksmith shops, etc. He

directed the surveying and laying out of the town in Nickerson township on January 13, 1871.

**North Bend.** North Bend was so named because it is located on the bend of the Platte river which is farthest north.

**Pleasant Valley.** An inland locality in Pleasant Valley precinct. The name is locally descriptive.

**Rawhide.** This place took its name from a near-by creek. The creek received its name because a white man was flayed upon its banks by a party of Pawnee Indians. The following circumstantial account of this incident is given: "One of a party of overland travelers had boasted that he would kill the first Indian seen, so after some friendly Indians appeared he killed one. The Indians then captured the party, demanded the culprit, and on receiving him, skinned him alive on that stream, which took the name of "Rawhide" from this incident."—Watson, *History of Nebraska*, vol. 3, p. 455.

**Ridgeley.** An inland locality in Ridgeley precinct. The name is probably local in origin.

**Scribner.** This town was named in honor of Charles Scribner, founder of a large publishing house in New York City. Mr. Scribner was a son-in-law of John I. Blair of New Jersey.

**Snyder.** This town was named for Conrad Schneider on whose farm it was platted August 5, 1886. Mr. Schneider was the first postmaster and took great pride in the fact that the town was named for him although the spelling of the name was not the same as that of his own name.

**Uehling.** Uehling was named in honor of Mr. Theodore Uehling because he was one of the pioneers in this section and the town was located on his farm. It was platted on December 6, 1905, and incorporated on November 20, 1906. Mr. Uehling was also the first postmaster. He came to Nebraska in 1860.

**Winslow.** This town was named by the Great Northern Railway Company.

## DOUGLAS COUNTY

Douglas county was created in the fall of 1854 and approved by the legislature on March 2, 1855. It was named in honor of Stephen A. Douglas, (1813-1861), United States senator from Illinois.

**Bennington.** The Pioneer Town-Site Company platted this town in 1887 and named it after Bennington, Vermont, which in turn was named for Governor Bennington Wentworth of New Hampshire.

**Benson.** This place is in Omaha precinct, on the northwest side of Omaha. It was named for a member of the Benson family residing in Omaha.

**Dodge.** A village on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad. It was probably named for General G. M. Dodge, the noted railroad builder, a former resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**Elk City.** This town was originally called Elkhorn City because of its location near the crossing on the Elkhorn river which is about a mile west of the present site. Later the name was changed because of its similarity to Elkhorn Station, a town about eight miles distant, which resulted in the confusion of mail. The name Gelston was suggested in honor of one of the oldest citizens, but some were opposed to this for political reasons. As a compromise the "horn" was omitted from the original name and the town was called Elk City.

**Elkhorn.** The town of Elkhorn or Elkhorn Station takes its name from the Elkhorn river which empties into the Platte river a short distance from the town. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved January 22, 1856. Ta-ha-zouka (Elk's Horn), from whom the Elkhorn river takes its name, was associated with Blackbird, also an Omaha chief, in a treaty with the Spanish Governor-General of Louisiana in 1796.

**Florence.** This town was first surveyed in 1853 and was re-surveyed and platted in the fall of 1854 by James C. Mitchell (1811-1860), member of the council of the first territorial assembly. Mr. Mitchell gave the town its name in honor of Miss Florence Kilbourne, a niece of Mrs. Mitchell. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved March 15, 1855.

**Irvington.** Irvington was first named Pappio because of its location on Pappio creek. It was renamed by a Mr. Brewster, a farmer in the vicinity who owned the town-site, after his old home in Irvington, New York. It is also claimed the town was named by Frank Hibbard, a resident of the place.

**Lane.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad.

**Mercer.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad in Platte Valley precinct.

**Millard.** This town was laid out by Ezra Millard (1833-1886) in 1871 and was named for him.

**Omaha.** Omaha was founded in 1854 by Wm. D. Brown, Dr. Enos Lowe, Jesse Lowe, Jesse Williams, and Joseph H. D. Street. The name was suggested by Jesse Lowe, partly because it was attractive and partly because it was the name of the nearest tribe of Indians in the vicinity. It has a very significant meaning: "Up-

stream, upstream people, or above all others upon a stream." The word and its meaning originated as follows according to an Indian tradition: "Two tribes had met on the Missouri river and engaged in an encounter in which all on one side were killed but one who had been thrown into the river. Rising suddenly from what was thought to be a watery grave he lifted his head above the surface and pronounced the word 'Omaha,' which had never been heard before. Its meaning was that the supposedly drowning Indian was above the water and not under it as his enemies supposed, and those who heard it took that word as the name of their tribe." Another account says that the Indian tribe was known as the Mahas or "those who went against the current." White men prefixed the letter "O" to the tribal name. Omaha Indians located the city of Omaha as early as 1820. It was natural that the whites preserved the name when they founded the city in 1854. (See *Trans. Neb. State Hist. Soc.* 4:151-152.)

The foregoing Omaha legend is the usual white man's invention. Omaha is the white man's approximation to the Omaha Indian word *O-man'-ha*; *an* is a nasalized *a*, the accent is on the second syllable. The tendency of white people is to throw the accent back to the first syllable. *O-man'-ha* is the Omaha Indian name for their people and is an old or ancient name with them. Omaha is the county seat of Douglas county. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved February 2, 1857.

**Ralston.** Ralston was named in honor of a Mr. Ralston who lived in the vicinity when the town was first started and who was very prominent in business circles.

**Sarpy.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad. It was named for Peter A. Sarpy after whom Sarpy county was named.

**Seymour.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad.

**Valley.** In 1867 John Sanders named this town Platte Sanders after himself. Later the name was changed by a number of citizens to Platte Valley. When the town was incorporated, the first part of the name, *Platte*, was accidentally omitted and only *Valley* was inserted. Hence the town became Valley, but the precinct in which it is located is still known as Platte Valley precinct. The railway officials called this place Valley Station because it was the first station on the Union Pacific railroad in the Platte valley, later the name was shortened to Valley and as such it was incorporated.

**Waterloo.** This town was laid out in 1871 and was named by the Union Pacific railroad for the battlefield in Belgium.

## DUNDY COUNTY

Dundy county was named in honor of Judge Elmer S. Dundy (1830-1896) of the United States circuit court, a former resident of Falls City, Nebraska. Its boundaries were defined by an act approved February 27, 1873.

**Benkelman.** This town is now called Benkelman, although at one time it was named Collinsville in honor of Moses Collins, one of the early settlers. It was named Benkelman for another early settler, J. G. Benkelman. The first settlement made here was in January, 1880. Benkelman is the county seat of Dundy county. The precinct has the same name.

**Calvert.** This town was named after an official of the Burlington railroad, T. E. Calvert of Lincoln, general superintendent, according to Milton W. Nesmith who homesteaded in the vicinity in 1885. It is in Calvert precinct.

**Haigler.** This place was named after Jacob Haigler, an early settler in the vicinity and one of local prominence, engaged in the cattle business and owner of considerable land. The precinct was also named for him.

**Hiawatha.** An inland post office in the northern part of Dundy county, presumably named for the hero of Longfellow's poem. It is in Lutz precinct.

**Max.** In 1880, Max Monvoisin, Hiram Ostrom, and Hoxie Groesbeck, with their families, homesteaded land in the Republican river valley where the town of Max is now located. The little settlement needed a post office which was established about a year before the railroad went through. The office was named Max after Max Monvoisin who was the first postmaster. The precinct has the same name.

**Parks.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, in Parks precinct, and on a tributary of the near-by Republican river. It and the precinct were probably named for a local resident.

**Sanborn.** The town of Sanborn was named in honor of J. E. Sanborn who homesteaded the tract of land on which the town is located. Mr. Sanborn was employed as engineer on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad. Sanborn is in Haigler precinct.

## FILLMORE COUNTY

Fillmore county was named in honor of Millard Fillmore (1800-1874) president of the United States, 1850-1853. The county was established and its boundaries defined by an act of the legislature

approved January 26, 1856. The county was formally organized in 1871. On March 15, 1871, acting Governor W. H. James decreed April 21, 1871, as the date of election for county officers.

**Burress.** This town is named in honor of J. Q. Burress who homesteaded the land on which the site is located.

**Carlisle.** The town of Carlisle was named for John G. Carlisle, secretary of the treasury in the cabinet of President Cleveland.

**Exeter.** The name "Exeter" was suggested for this town by a family that came to the neighborhood from Exeter, New Hampshire. The name happened to fit in with the alphabetical system of naming towns along the Burlington railroad, so it was adopted. The precinct has the same name.

**Fairmont.** This town is a junction point for the Burlington railway. It is apparently so named because of the fine surroundings and somewhat elevated position. The precinct has the same name. The pioneer name was Hesperia. Settlement was made in the spring of 1871.

**Geneva.** Miss Emma McCaully named this town in 1871 after Geneva, New York, which in turn was named after Geneva, Switzerland. Miss McCaully was a daughter of Colonel J. A. McCaully who owned the farm on which the town is established. Geneva is the county seat of Fillmore county.

**Grafton.** This town is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, in Grafton precinct. It was probably named for Grafton, Massachusetts.

**Milligan.** This town was named in honor of an official on the Kansas City and Omaha railroad.

**Ohiowa.** Ohioa post office was organized in 1871. The early settlers at that time came in about equal numbers from the states of Ohio and Iowa and they agreed to name the town Ohioa, a combination of the names of the two states.

**Sawyer.** This town was originally named Buxton in honor of a railroad official. It was changed to Sawyer in honor of Simeon Sawyer who was the oldest settler in the vicinity.

**Schickley.** The town of Schickley was named in honor of Fillmore Schickley who was attorney for the first railroad built through the vicinity, also an owner of land and of the town-site in the vicinity.

**Strang.** This town was renamed several times but finally it was called Strang in honor of a local man, A. L. Strang, who presented to its citizens a windmill for the town pump.

## FRANKLIN COUNTY

Franklin county was named for Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), the American statesman and philosopher. The first settlements in the county were made in 1870. The county was organized by an act of the legislature approved March 9, 1871. The boundaries were defined by an act approved February 16, 1867.

**Bloomington.** A village on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Oak Grove precinct. It was probably named for Bloomington, Illinois.

**Campbell.** Named after a Mr. Campbell who was a member of the town-site company that founded the town.

**Franklin.** The first settlement in Franklin was made in July, 1879. The town, like the county, was named for Benjamin Franklin. It is the county seat of Franklin county.

**Hildreth.** This town was named for Carson Hildreth who at present resides in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Hildreth at one time owned the land on which the town is now located.

**Macon.** One of the old settlers in this locality came from Macon, Georgia, and named the town after his former home. The precinct has the same name.

**Naponee.** The first settlement here was made in 1870. The town was named after a town in Canada.

**Riverton.** The first settlers arrived March 20, 1871. How or why they gave their town its name is not known, possibly it was because it is a "river town," being located on the Republican river. Or Riverton, Iowa, may have suggested the name.

**Upland.** This town is built upon a high elevation of land and for this reason was named Upland.

## FRONTIER COUNTY

Frontier county was so named because of its geographical location on the Nebraska frontier at the time of its naming. It was organized on January 17, 1872; its boundaries were redefined by an act approved March 3, 1873.

**Centerpoint.** This town was so named because it is located in the center of the school district and also in the center of the township. The post office here was discontinued about four years ago.

**Colebank.** A locality in Lincoln precinct, named for a local resident.

**Curtis.** The town of Curtis was named after Curtis creek on which it is located. Curtis creek was named after a trapper by that

name who settled near the mouth of the creek about sixty years ago. The precinct has the same name.

**Earl.** A pioneer store and post office in Earl precinct. The precinct and post office were named for a local resident, Earl Childs, son of E. S. Childs who was proprietor of the store and the first postmaster.

**Eustis.** The Lincoln Land Company purchased this town-site and named it in honor of P. S. Eustis, passenger agent on the Burlington railroad. Mr. Eustis was at that time a resident of Omaha, Nebraska.

**Freedom.** This post office was established in 1895 in Knowles precinct, and was named after a former post office in the vicinity which doubtless was established shortly after the Civil War, when the name Freedom was a word with which to conjure.

**Havana.** The post office at Havana was established during the Spanish American war and was named after Havana, Cuba. It has been discontinued for several years.

**Hunt.** A store and former post office in Logan precinct; named for Isaac Hunt, a pioneer settler in the vicinity.

**Maywood.** This place is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Laird precinct. The original name was Laird, after James Laird, but as there was another town in Colorado named Laird on the same railway the name was changed to Maywood, after May Wood, the youngest daughter of Israel Wood, the original owner of the land, who sold it to Harry Phillips, the town-site man.

**Moorefield.** This town was named in honor of a man by the name of Moore who originally owned the town-site, it being in a field that had been farmed. The village was first called Moore's Field, and later shortened to Moorefield. The precinct has the same name.

**Orafino.** This place is located in the eastern part of Lower Medicine precinct. It was so named by H. C. Rogers on account of his finding iron pyrites in Mitchell creek near the present site of Orafino. He thought at the time that the ore was very valuable. Orafino is from the Spanish language and means "fine ore." Towns in California and Idaho named for the same reason, (the finding of valuable ore), have the form Orofino.

**Osborn.** A precinct and former post office in the southwestern part of Frontier county. Both were named for David J. Osborn, an early homesteader and a prominent man in the vicinity. In some directories and on some maps the name is given as Osburn.

**Quick.** Quick post office was named for M. W. Quick who started its first post office about thirty years ago.

**Saint Ann.** The post office at Saint Ann was presumably named for Saint Ann church which is located in the vicinity.

**Stevens.** Frank S. Stevens was the first postmaster of this town and the post office was named in his honor.

**Stockville.** This town is the county seat of Frontier county. It was established in 1872 on land owned by W. L. McClary, a ranchman in the vicinity. As the settlers were mainly cattlemen the town was known as a stocktown, hence Stockville. The post office was established in 1871 with Everett G. Nesbit as postmaster. The name Stockville was given to the locality in 1870 by Samuel Watts, an early settler, on account of its being a fine stock country. At that time there was neither an official post office nor town but only a place where information was exchanged or left for those who passed back and forth through the country. The precinct has the same name.

## FURNAS COUNTY

Furnas county was organized and its boundaries defined on February 27, 1873. It was named in honor of Robert W. Furnas (1824-1905) then governor of Nebraska, 1873-1875.

**Arapahoe.** Apparently this town was named after the Arapahoe tribe of Indians. Gannett, in his book on the origin of certain place names in the United States, states the word *Arapahoe* signifies "traders."

**Beaver City.** This town was so named because of its location in the valley of the Beaver river, so named because of the presence of beaver. The first settlement was made here by J. H. McKee on October 9, 1872. The precinct has the same name. Beaver City is the county seat of Furnas county.

**Cambridge.** The post office at Cambridge was established under the name of Medicine Creek in 1874, with George Carothers as postmaster. Hiram Doing was the first settler in the vicinity in 1871. The name was changed to Cambridge in 1880. This place was probably named after Cambridge, Massachusetts. D. F. Neiswanger, of Cambridge, Nebraska, is authority for the statement that in 1880 W. E. Babcock of Cambridge met the Burlington officials at Oxford. These officials, as they had named Oxford, suggested the name Cambridge to Mr. Babcock, the names to be in commemoration of the old university towns of England.

**Edison.** This office was named in honor of Edward Rohr, who was commonly known as Eddie.

**Hendley.** The town of Hendley was named in honor of a Mr. Hendley who was a resident in the locality many years ago.

**Holbrook.** This locality was formerly known as Burton's Bend after Ben Burton's Indian trading post, located on a bend of the Republican river. The township still retains the name. As there was a Burton post office in the state the name was changed to Holbrook, after an official of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad.

**Hollinger.** The name Hollinger was selected by the railroad from a list of names suggested for this town.

**Oxford.** This town in Oxford precinct was located late in the year 1879. It was originally called Grand View. According to local tradition there was a ford across the Republican river in the vicinity for ox teams which was known locally as Ox ford. The town took the name of the near-by ford. Another account is that the place was named for Oxford University, England, but more likely it was named for Oxford, Ohio, according to the Burlington custom of naming towns after those in Massachusetts or Ohio.

**Wilsonville.** This town received its name from the Wilson brothers, early local settlers. The township has the same name for the same reason.

## GAGE COUNTY

The county was established and its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 16, 1855; reestablished and redefined January 26, 1856. Gage county was named after William D. Gage (1803-1885), a Methodist minister who was chaplain of the first territorial assembly when the county was established. He was also one of the commissioners appointed to locate the county seat of Gage county.

**Adams.** The town of Adams and Adams township in which it is located were both named after John O. Adams. Mr. Adams was a pioneer settler who founded Adams township in 1873.

**Barneston.** Located in Barneston township. The town and township were both named in honor of Francis M. Barnes, a member of the original town-site company.

**Beatrice.** Beatrice was named on July 4, 1857, in honor of Miss Julia Beatrice Kinney, the eldest daughter of Judge J. F. Kinney (1816-1902), chief justice of the supreme court of Utah, 1853, and United States congressman from Utah, 1863. Contrary to the usual pronunciation of the name Be'-a-trice, the local pronunciation is Be-at'-rice, because Miss Kinney's name was pronounced in

this way. The town was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved October 29, 1858. It is the county seat of Gage county.

**Blue Springs.** Established in 1857. The town is named after the several large springs known as the "Blue Springs" which are situated a short distance north of the town near the Blue river. These springs are large enough to supply the water systems of Blue Springs and Wymore. The precinct is also named Blue Springs and apparently for the same reason as the town.

**Clatonia.** This town is named after Clatonia creek and Clatonia township in which it is located. Gage county was originally a part of Clay county after which the creek and township were named.

**Cortland.** The early settlers of Cortland intended to call the town Galesburg in honor of a Mr. Gale who owned the land on which the town is now located. There were so many Galesburgs in the United States, however, that this name was rejected. The name Cortland was suggested by the railroad officials, doubtless after Cortland, New York.

**Cropsey.** An inland locality near the northeast corner of Gage county in Adams precinct. The name is for a pioneer local settler who had a mill at this place.

**Ellis.** This town was named in honor of John R. Ellis. Mr. Ellis was then a banker in Beatrice.

**Filley.** Located in Filley township. Filley was founded in 1882 by Elijah Filley and the town and township were named in his honor.

**Freeman.** An inland locality in Logan precinct. The name is probably local in origin.

**Grandview.** A locally descriptive name for an inland locality in the southeastern part of Nemaha precinct.

**Hanover.** This inland village is in Logan precinct. The vicinity has many German settlers. The place was named for Hanover, Germany. A neighboring precinct has the same name for the same reason.

**Hoag.** A man by the name of Hoagland owned the land on which Hoag is now located and the town was named after him.

**Holmesville.** In 1880 Holmesville was founded by Morgan L. Holmes after whom it was named.

**Kinney.** Named in honor of Samuel A. Kinney, an old resident of Island Grove township. The town is located on the site of Mr. Kinney's farm.

**Krider.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Paddock precinct. The name is probably local in origin.

**Lanham.** This town is located on the Kansas-Nebraska state line. The railway station and most of the houses are in Nebraska, but the post office is in Kansas. The town was originally called Morton, which caused confusion with Norton, Kansas. It was then changed to Lanham, named after an official of the Burlington and Missouri railroad in Nebraska, now a part of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy system.

**Liberty.** Located in Liberty township. An early post office in the vicinity was called Liberty and when the village was laid out its founders adopted the name of the post office as a suitable cognomen for the prospective town.

**Odell.** Founded in 1880. The town was named in honor of Le Grand Odell of Chicago, an early settler. Mr. Odell's relation with the officials of the Burlington railroad was of use to him in obtaining a railroad in the vicinity of the town.

**Pickrell.** The town was named after William Pickrell who owned part of the land on which it is located. The site was laid out in lots in 1884.

**Rockford.** There are numerous stone quarries in the vicinity and also a large rocky ford across Mud creek, a small stream which flows through the town. This town was named after these natural features. The precinct is also named Rockford for the same reason.

**Townsend.** An inland village in Hanover precinct. The name is probably for a local settler.

**Virginia.** Virginia was named in honor of Miss Virginia Lewis who is now Mrs. D. S. Dalbey of Beatrice, Nebraska.

**Wymore.** Named in honor of an early settler, Samuel Wymore. Mr. Wymore gave the railroad company some land as an inducement to bring it to the vicinity. Gannett's work on place names gives the name as G. S. Wymore.

## GARDEN COUNTY

On November 2, 1909, an election was held to create the new county of Garden out of the north part of Deuel county. The election carried and the new county entered into existence about January 1, 1910, with Oshkosh as the county seat. The name Garden was suggested by John T. Twiford and William R. Twiford, who were conducting a real estate business in Oshkosh, Nebraska, at the time of the organization of the county. Their explanation for the name was that this particular locality was or bade fair to be the "garden spot of the west."

**Hartman.** This place is located on Lost creek in Lost Creek precinct. The post office was established in the spring of 1889 and named after Sebastian Hartman, the first postmaster. The post office was discontinued in 1899.

**Hutchinson.** This place is located on Blue creek, in Blue Creek precinct.

**Kowanda.** A former, inland post office in Green precinct. It was named for a local resident. The name is of Bohemian origin, being derived from *kovan*, *kovane*, smithy, smithwork, *kovanı*, forging, hammering, ironwork, the reference being to one doing black-smithing.

**Lewellen.** Frank Lewellen conducted the first store and post office here in 1887 or 1888 and the town was named in his honor.

**Lisco.** This place was named after Reuben Lisco who formerly owned the land on which the village stands. Mr. Lisco was an old time cattle man of the vicinity, owning about forty thousand acres of land. He is now president of the Lisco state bank.

**Lutherville.** A post office was established here on Blue creek about 1887 and called Ramsey, after the first postmaster, but it was discontinued in 1893. The present name is for a station on the Union Pacific railroad.

**Moffitt.** The Moffitt post office was named in honor of its first postmaster, a Mr. Moffitt.

**Mumper.** This office was named after a woman by the name of Mumper, a homesteader in the vicinity.

**Orlando.** This name was given to the post office at the suggestion of one of the patrons of the office. It seems not to be known whether it was named for any other place or person.

**Oshkosh.** Oshkosh, the county seat of Garden county, was named after Oshkosh, Wisconsin. In 1885, Henry G. Gumaer, Alfred W. Gumaer, Herbert W. Potter, and John Robinson, moved from Saint Paul, Nebraska, to the present town-site and established a cattle ranch. In 1886 the post office was established and the name suggested by the Gumaer brothers who were natives of Wisconsin, Alfred W. Gumaer having lived at one time in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

**Pawlett.** A former, inland post office in Alkali precinct. The name may be of local origin or derived from Pawlett, Somerset, England.

**Rackett.** An inland post office in Alkali precinct. The name is probably local in origin.

## GARFIELD COUNTY

This county was named for James A. Garfield (1831-1881), president of the United States, 1881. It was formed from Wheeler county by vote on November 8, 1881.

**Ballagh.** The town of Ballagh was named in honor of its first settler, Robert A. Ballagh.

**Blake.** Blake was named after Blake Maher who was a business partner on the ranch of L. B. Fenner, the first postmaster.

**Burwell.** This town, the county seat of Garfield county, was platted by Frank Webster in 1883 on his home farm and for many years was called "Webster's town." It was named after a Miss Burwell who was the fiancée of Mr. Webster's brother but died before marriage.

**Deverre.** This post office was named for Deverre Cass who was instrumental in procuring its establishment.

**Dumas.** The town of Dumas was named for the French author, Alexandre Dumas, and is in Erina precinct.

**Erina.** In the spring of 1880 a colony of Irish emigrants settled in this vicinity. Erin was the name chosen for the post office, after Erin, the Irish name for Ireland. As there was at the time another office of the same name in Nebraska, Erin was transformed to Erina. The post office has been discontinued. The township also has the name Erina.

**Gables.** This town was so named because the house in which the post office was first established had a very high gabled roof. It is in Roosevelt precinct.

**Rosevale.** This locality is situated in Rose Valley which was so named because of the profusion of wild roses. Rosevale was named after Rose Valley by contracting the name. The post office has been discontinued.

**Sheridan.** This town was named in honor of General Philip H. Sheridan (1831-1888), the Civil War hero. The post office has been moved into Wheeler county.

## GOSPER COUNTY

Gosper county was named in honor of John J. Gosper who was secretary of state in Nebraska at the time when the county was organized, August 29, 1873. The organization was legalized and the boundaries defined by an act approved March 2, 1881.

**Ceryl.** This place is inland, near the center of the county, in Turkey Creek precinct, and was probably named for a local resident. The post office has been discontinued.

**Elwood.** Elwood, the county seat of Gosper county, received its name in honor of Elwood Thomas, a farmer who lived near by at the time the railroad was built through the county. The precinct has the same name.

**Gosper.** This is an inland village in East Muddy precinct, and received its name from John J. Gosper after whom the county was named. The post office has been discontinued.

**Smithfield.** The quarter section on which this town is located was at one time owned by E. B. Smith, now of Lexington, Nebraska. The site was located in the midst of Mr. Smith's field; hence the name Smithfield.

### GRANT COUNTY

Grant county was named after General U. S. Grant (1822-1885). Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 31, 1887.

**Ashby.** This village is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Hyannis township and was named by an official of the railway company after Ashby, Massachusetts.

**Duluth.** This place is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Whitman precinct. It was named by the officials of the railroad, probably after Duluth, Minnesota, which in turn was named for Greyclon Du Luth, an early French explorer in the vicinity.

**Elva.** An inland place in the southeastern part of Grant county, in Collins precinct. It was probably named for a local resident.

**Hyannis.** The site of Hyannis was owned by John S. Dellinger. The citizens of the community wished to name the future post office Dellinger, for Henry R. Dellinger, an early local settler, the father of J. S. Dellinger. This place was named by an official of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad after Hyannis, Massachusetts. A local tradition says that when the railroad was being built through the vicinity, some of the men working for the road were from Hyannis, Massachusetts, and that they named the new town-site after their former home. Hyannis is the county seat of Grant county and is in Hyannis precinct. Hyannis, Massachusetts, was named for the Indian chief, Hianna, and is situated in Barnstable county, Cape Cod region.

**Lucky Valley.** A vicinity located near the southeastern corner of Whitman township. It was so named because of its fortunate situation. The post office has been discontinued.

**Whitman.** This town was named by the railroad company after Whitman, Plymouth county, Massachusetts. It is situated in Whitman township.

### GREELEY COUNTY

Greeley county was named in honor of Horace Greeley (1811-1872) to whom is accredited the saying: "Go west young man and grow up with the country." The first settlements in this county were made in 1871-1872. It was organized and the boundaries defined by an act approved March 1, 1871.

**Belfast.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Mount Pleasant precinct, doubtless named for Belfast, Ireland.

**Brayton.** This village is on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Brayton precinct. Both were probably named for a local resident.

**Greeley Center.** This town was so named because it is located in almost the exact center of Greeley county. The post office here is named Greeley, but the town itself is named Greeley Center. It is the county seat of Greeley county. The precinct is named Center.

**Horace.** This town is named in honor of Horace Greeley, the noted editor of the *New York Tribune* and candidate in 1872 for president of the United States.

**Homestead.** A former post office near the northwest corner of Greeley county in Homestead precinct. Both derive their names because the settlers located on homesteads.

**Parnell.** A village in Parnell precinct, both probably named for Charles S. Parnell, the Irish, home-rule leader.

**Scotia.** The settlement of Scotia antedates 1874. The town was named by an early settler in honor of Scotland, his former country. Scotia is the poetic name for Scotland.

**Spalding.** The town of Spalding was located by an Irish Catholic association and was named in honor of Bishop Spalding who was president of the association at that time.

**Wolbach.** This town was named for S. N. Wolbach of Grand Island, Nebraska. Mr. Wolbach at one time owned a great deal of land around what is now the site of Wolbach.

### HALL COUNTY

Hall county was organized and its boundaries defined by an act of the legislature approved November 4, 1858. Its boundaries were re-defined February 1, 1864, and again March 1, 1871. It

was named in honor of Augustus Hall (1814-1861), chief justice of the territory of Nebraska, 1858, and a former congressman from Iowa.

**Abbott.** This town was named in honor of Othman Ali Abbott of Grand Island, the first lieutenant governor of Nebraska, elected in the fall of 1876.

**Alda.** The first settlement was made in this vicinity in May, 1859. The town was first named Pawnee, but was renamed Alda in honor of the first white child born in the town, the daughter of a section boss.

**Cairo.** The town of Cairo originated in the spring of 1886. It was named by the Lincoln Land Company, presumably after Cairo, Egypt. Some of the streets in the town have Egyptian names.

**Doniphan.** This town was named in honor of Colonel John Doniphan, of Saint Joseph, Missouri, who was then attorney for the railroad on which it is located. The town was surveyed in 1879. Gannett's work on place names states that it was named for Colonel Alexander William Doniphan, a distinguished western soldier.

**Grand Island.** The present city of Grand Island was laid out by the Union Pacific Railroad Company in the spring of 1866 just opposite the old Grand Island settlement. It was named Grand Island after the large island in the Platte river and also after the original settlement by that name. Grand Island is the county seat of Hall county.

**Schauppsville.** This town was founded about 1880 by a Mr. Schaupp for whom it was named.

**Spencer.** A post office was established here in July, 1878. George J. Spencer was the first postmaster and the town is named for him.

**Underwood.** This town was established on January 16, 1885. It was named for Mrs. Cleanthe A. Underwood, postmistress, who established the post office on the farm of B. G. Underwood.

**Wood River.** The town of Wood River is named after the famous Wood River valley in which it is located. It was first laid out in 1869, but did not exist in its present location until 1871. The town is situated on the banks of Wood river.

## HAMILTON COUNTY

Hamilton county was named for Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804), secretary of the treasury in George Washington's cabinet. Its boundaries were defined by an act approved February 16, 1867.

**Aurora.** This town was surveyed and platted in 1882. Its name was suggested by David Stone, an early settler, as a compliment to his wife who was a native of Aurora, Illinois. Mr. Robert Miller has the distinction of having named the town because he cast the two votes that determined the selection of the name. Aurora is the county seat of Hamilton county.

**Giltner.** Giltner was named in honor of the Reverend Mr. Henry M. Giltner, a Presbyterian minister and missionary of the early days in Nebraska and in this vicinity in particular. It was surveyed and platted in the spring of 1886 and was originally named Bromfield.

**Hampton.** The town of Hampton was surveyed and platted in October, 1879, on land owned by Joshua Cox. Mr. Cox wished it to be named Plano because that was the name of his home in Illinois; but since there was another town by that name on the railroad, it was given the name Murray. Later the name was changed to Hampton, because there was a town on the Burlington and Missouri railroad named Murray and this caused confusion in freight shipments.

**Hordville.** This town was named in honor of T. B. Hord who formerly owned a great deal of land in the vicinity. It was settled in 1907.

**Marquette.** Marquette was surveyed and platted by the Lincoln Land Company in 1882. Thomas M. Marquette of Lincoln, a member of the company, was then general attorney for the Burlington railroad and the town was named for him.

**Orville City.** This town was named in honor of Orville Wescott, the son of C. O. Wescott. It was surveyed and platted in 1870.

**Phillips.** Captain R. O. Phillips of Lincoln at one time had charge of establishing town-sites for the Lincoln Land Company. The town of Phillips was named in his honor.

**Stockham.** This town was named for Joseph Stockham who was a member of the town board of trustees. It was surveyed and platted in 1887.

## HARLAN COUNTY

Harlan county was originally a part of Lincoln county and was separated from it by an act of the legislature approved June 3, 1871. It was named for a nephew of Senator James Harlan of Iowa. This nephew was at one time a revenue collector and lived near Republican City, Nebraska. Gannett states the county was named for James Harlan, secretary of the interior, 1865-1866.

**Alma.** The town-site of Alma was selected by Mark Coad, N. P. Cook, and Thomas Murrin, members of the Cheyenne Colony, in the spring of 1871. It was named in honor of a daughter of N. P. Cook. Alma is the county seat of Harlan county. The precinct is also named Alma.

**Carter.** A village on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Emerson precinct. It was named probably for a railway official.

**Huntley.** This town was named in honor of a Mr. Huntley, a railroad official who was very influential in getting bonds voted and in securing the right-of-way for the new railroad.

**Mascot.** The town of Mascot was originally called Rouse, but because there was another town in the state by that name it was changed to Mascot. The latter name was given to the town by the railroad.

**Orleans.** Originally the town was called Melrose and it was located a short distance from the present site. It was laid out and platted by D. N. Smith, the noted site locator for the Burlington and Missouri River railroad in 1872. It was probably named for Orleans, Massachusetts, though Gannett claims in his work on United States place names that it was named for Orleans, France. The precinct has the same name.

**Oxford Junction.** A junction point for the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Emerson precinct. It is located a short distance from Oxford, Furnas county, after which it takes its name.

**Republican City.** The first settlement was made in this vicinity by H. M. Luce in 1871. The town was given its name because of its location on the Republican river. Republican river was so named because it was the habitat of the Pawnee Republic or Republican Pawnee, this name being applied by white men to the tribe because of their form of government.

**Stamford.** The original town was named Carisbrook. When the railroad was built through the valley, the Lincoln Land Company relocated the town and named the new town Stamford, probably after Stamford, Connecticut.

## HAYES COUNTY

Hayes county was named in honor of President Rutherford B. Hayes (1822-1893). Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved February 19, 1877.

**Hamlet.** The town of Hamlet was originally named Hudson in honor of its founder. When a post office was established, how-

ever, it was necessary to change the name because there was already a Hudson post office in the state. The name Hamlet, which means "a small town," was chosen by the citizens.

**Hayes Center.** This town is the county seat of Hayes county. It was so named because it is located almost in the center of the county. A post office was established here in 1885.

**Marengo.** This post office was established in 1889. The petitioners proposed the name Suttler, after an old settler named Suttler, and after Suttler's canyon; but the United States post office department gave the office the name Marengo.

**Norris.** This post office was named in honor of Senator George W. Norris, through whose influence both the office and Norris route were established.

**Rain.** Rain post office in Highridge precinct, was established in 1895. This was during the dry seasons in western Nebraska and religious and other organizations were holding weekly prayer meetings to pray for rain. C. B. French, a minister of the Church of Christ, was the first postmaster here. It was his idea that the new office should be called Rain, in order that the patrons might remember the famine in western Nebraska. This office was discontinued in 1920.

**Robert.** An inland post office in Fairfield precinct. It was probably named for a local resident.

**Strickland.** An inland post office in Deerfield precinct. It was probably named for some local settler.

**Thornburg.** This post office in Thornburg precinct, was established in 1878 or near this time. It is thought the post office was named after another one in another state.

**White.** This town was named in honor of Arthur White, a homesteader in the locality. Mr. White is at present living in Oregon.

## HITCHCOCK COUNTY

Hitchcock county was named in honor of Phineas Warren Hitchcock (1831-1881) who was a United States senator from Nebraska at the time of its organization in 1873. Its boundaries were defined by an act approved February 27, 1873.

**Beverly.** A village on a branch of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Beverly precinct. It was probably named for Beverly, Essex county, Massachusetts.

**Cornell.** A former, inland post office in Cornell precinct. The name is probably local in origin.

**Culbertson.** This town was named in honor of the well-known Indian agent, Culbertson, and is in Culbertson precinct.

**Meeker.** A station on the branch line of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad near the line between Riverside and Pleasant Hill precincts. The name apparently has reference to a local settler.

**Palisade.** This name was given by Samuel True because of the breaks, resembling palisades, around the town. Palisade is in Palisade precinct.

**Poe.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Pleasantview precinct.

**Rupert.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Riverside precinct. The name is probably for a local resident.

**Stratton.** The town of Stratton, in Stratton precinct, was founded in 1883 and named in honor of a Mrs. Stratton, one of the first settlers in the vicinity.

**Trenton.** The Lincoln Land Company laid out and named the town at the time when the Burlington railroad was extended through the vicinity to Denver. Trenton is the county seat of Hitchcock county. A neighboring precinct has the same name. Trenton was probably named for Trenton, New Jersey.

## HOLT COUNTY

Holt county was named in honor of Joseph Holt of Kentucky who was a member of President Buchanan's cabinet, being post-master-general and secretary of war. Later he was judge-advocate of the army under President Lincoln. Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved January 9, 1862.

**Agee.** An inland place in Paddock precinct, established in 1882. It was named for A. W. Agee, lieutenant governor of Nebraska for 1883-1884.

**Amelia.** The village of Amelia was named in honor of Amelia A. Bliss.

**Anncar.** Anncar post office was named for Mrs. Ann Carroll O'Neill at whose home the office was established. The last syllable of Carroll was omitted because there already was a Carroll post office in the state.

**Atkinson.** John Carberry made the first settlement here in 1876. The town was named in honor of Colonel John Atkinson of Detroit, Michigan, who had large landed interests in the vicinity. The precinct has the same name.

**Badger.** This place is situated on the Niobrara river, near Big Sandy creek, in Sand Creek precinct. Apparently it was so named from the presence of the badger, once common in the vicinity. The post office has been discontinued.

**Biscuit.** A local name for an inland locality in the northern part of Paddock precinct.

**Blackbird.** Blackbird is the English translation of the name of an Indian chief of the Omahas who lived and died in the vicinity of Blackbird, Nebraska. Gannett gives the word as *Washingasahba*, meaning, "blackbird," in his book on place names. The town of Blackbird was named for the Blackbird river which in turn receives its name from that of the Indian chief. Blackbird is the first Omaha chief of whom there is definite knowledge. He died in 1800, according to Lewis and Clark, who visited his grave in 1804.

**Bliss.** An inland post office in Lake precinct. It was probably named for a local resident.

**Brodie.** An inland village in the northwestern part of Holt county in Cleveland precinct. The name is probably for a local settler.

**Catalpa.** When this post office was established it was named Catalpa for the reason that there is a group of catalpa trees in the vicinity.

**Celia.** An inland village and a former post office in Sand Creek precinct, named probably for a local settler.

**Chambers.** In 1883 R. C. Wray homesteaded on the land which is now the site of Chambers, Nebraska. Mr. Wray built a post office in which he also kept a store, and also marked out a few town lots. W. D. Matthews of the *Frontier* office at O'Neill, Nebraska, named the new town in honor of his friend B. F. Chambers, register of the land office at Niobrara.

**Chelsea.** A locality on the Niobrara river in Spencer precinct. Many places in the United States have this name, the most important one being Chelsea, Suffolk county, Massachusetts. All are named directly or indirectly for Chelsea, Middlesex, England.

**Cleveland.** The post office at Cleveland was established in 1878. It was named in honor of L. M. Cleveland, the first postmaster and one of the early settlers.

**Deloit.** An inland village and a former post office in the southern part of Deloit precinct, southeastern part of Holt county. It was probably named for Deloit, Crawford county, Iowa.

**Dorsey.** The pioneer name of this place was Mineral. It was of the U. S. House of Representatives, 1885-1891. given its present name in honor of George W. E. Dorsey, member

**Doty.** The first settlements were made here in May, 1879. The town was named for E. H. Doty on account of the interest taken by him in the establishment of the post roads.

**Dustin.** An inland post office in Sand Creek precinct, probably named for a local resident.

**Emmet.** This town was named in honor of the Irish patriot, Robert Emmet, (1778-1803).

**Emporia.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in the southern part of Verdigris precinct. The Verdigris river rises in the precinct. The name Emporia is from the Latin *emporium*, meaning a commercial place, a mart, a place of trade, or a center of trade. The most important town in the United States with this name is Emporia, Lyon county, Kansas, which may have suggested the name for the Nebraska place.

**Ewing.** On January 22, 1874, the post office at Ewing was established and named in honor of James Ewing, the first postmaster. The town was platted by the Pioneer Town-Site Company in 1882.

**Grand Rapids.** A locality near the northwest corner of Sand Creek precinct, on the Niobrara river. The name has reference to the rapids in the river. Grand Rapids, Kent county, Michigan, on the rapids of Grand river, may have suggested the name.

**Gravel Pit.** A locally descriptive name for a station on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad in Atkinson precinct.

**Greenvalley.** An inland village in Green Valley precinct, a locally descriptive name for both the village and the precinct.

**Hainesville.** This town was named in honor of S. S. Haines, who, with D. S. Ludwig, made the first settlement here in February, 1879.

**Harold.** An inland locality and a former post office in Conley precinct, probably named for a local resident.

**Hay Point.** A locally descriptive name for a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in the northeastern part of Inman precinct.

**Inez.** An inland post office in Francis precinct, probably named for a local resident.

**Inglis.** The name of an inland village near the southwest corner of Sand Creek precinct, apparently local in origin.

**Inman.** The post office at Inman was named in honor of W. H. Inman, a pioneer store keeper, one of the earliest settlers in Holt county. It was established on September 16, 1881. The precinct has the same name.

**Josie.** An inland locality and a post office in Swan precinct, probably named for a local resident.

**Joy.** Originally established in 1886, about thirteen miles north of O'Neill, with C. W. Hagensick as postmaster. The locality was then being settled and the name was chosen as expressive of the feelings of the settlers over the prospect of having a post office. The location of the post office has changed several times but it has been in its present location about thirty years.

**Kola.** The name of an inland locality and a post office near the center of Swan precinct, apparently local in origin.

**Laura.** J. A. Estep made the first settlement in this vicinity on June 20, 1880. He was made postmaster of the office which was established on March 20, 1881, and named in honor of his wife, Mrs. Laura Estep.

**Lavinia.** This post office was named in honor of Mrs. Lavinia Smith, wife of J. L. Smith, who was the first woman in the settlement. The office was established in June, 1878.

**Leonie.** I. R. Smith was the first postmaster here and he named the office in honor of his first wife. The office has been discontinued.

**Little.** The post office at Little was established in June, 1881, and named in honor of L. B. Little, one of the early settlers.

**Lucerne.** An inland locality in Fairview precinct. The name derives from Lucerne, Switzerland.

**Maple Grove.** An inland locality and a post office in the southeastern part of Saratoga precinct. The name has reference to a grove of maples in the vicinity.

**Martha.** This office was established in 1904 and it was named after Mrs. Martha Rollin Porter, a pioneer of the vicinity and mother-in-law of the first postmaster.

**Meek.** This town was named in honor of Samuel Meek who was at one time a butter maker in the vicinity. At present Mr. Meek lives in South Norfolk, Nebraska, and is engaged in truck farming.

**Middlebranch.** Middlebranch is a country post office and store in Iowa precinct, twelve miles from the railroad. It is situated on the middle branch of Verdigre creek from which it derives its name.

**Mineola.** An inland locality and a former post office in the southeastern part of Scott precinct. Probably named for Mineola, Queens county, New York. There is also a Mineola, Woods county, Texas, as well as a Mineola, Mills county, Iowa.

**O'Neill.** The original town-site of O'Neill was platted by Thomas I. Atwood in May, 1874. An addition was platted in 1875 by General John J. O'Neill who brought a colony of Irishmen from Scranton, Pennsylvania. General O'Neill was the first settler on May 12, 1874, and the town was named in his honor. O'Neill is the county seat of Holt county.

**Opportunity.** The founders of this town thought they would "take an opportunity to make good" if they started a little store and post office on one corner of a big ranch in this vicinity. Hence the town was named Opportunity.

**Paddock.** This town was originally named Troy. The name was changed to Paddock in 1875 in honor of Algernon S. Paddock, United States senator from Nebraska, 1875-1881. The precinct has the same name.

**Page.** In 1883 a family named Page took up a homestead in this vicinity and when the railroad was built a portion of the town-site was located on their land. When the post office was established Mrs. Selinda Page was the first postmistress and the office was named in honor of the Page family. Later the railroad station was given the same name.

**Phoenix.** The post office at Phoenix was originally called Greeley, but this office was discontinued because there was an older Greeley post office in the state. When an office was reestablished here it was named Phoenix by the settlers, because, like the Phoenix of the Egyptian myth, it had risen again from its ashes, young and beautiful. The office was originally named for Peter Greeley.

**Ray.** Ray post office was named for the oldest son of N. T. Hoxie, one of the early settlers in the vicinity. The office was established about 1880 or 1881 but was later discontinued.

**Redbird.** The town of Redbird was named after Red Bird creek on which it is located.

**Saratoga.** A post office was established at Saratoga in 1879 and named after the Saratoga precinct in which it is located.

**Scottville.** This place was named after a local pioneer, Barrett Scott, who later was treasurer of Holt county. The post office has been discontinued.

**Stafford.** This town was named in honor of Michael Stafford who was the first road master of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad at the time when it was known as the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley railroad. He also had a land claim in the vicinity.

**Star.** C. E. Downey of O'Neill, Nebraska, suggested the name Star for this post office. Mr. Downey says that in selecting the name he considered only the fact that it was short and familiar.

**Stuart.** This town was named in honor of Peter Stuart, one of the early settlers who owned the land on which the village is located. The first settlement was made here in 1879.

**Swan.** Swan post office was named after Swan lake which is located in the immediate vicinity. Swan lake was so named because of its shape. It has an oblong body with rather a long neck. There is also a Swan township which received its name from the same source.

**Tonawanda.** The post office at Tonawanda was named in honor of an Indian girl by that name, the Indian form being Tonawando or Tonawanta. It has also been suggested, in all probability correctly, that this place took its name from Tonawanda, New York, which in turn is said to be an Iroquois Indian word meaning "swift water." Tonawanda ('confluent stream') is a Seneca settlement on Tonawanda creek, in Niagara county, New York.

**Tonic.** An inland village and a former post office in the southwestern part of Deloit precinct.

**Turner.** William Knollkampire named this post office in honor of a Mr. Turner, his partner in a grist mill. Mr. Turner was also a merchant at Niobrara and Springfield, Nebraska.

## HOOKER COUNTY

This county was named in honor of General Joseph Hooker (1814-1879), a noted general of the Civil War. Its boundaries were defined by an act approved March 29, 1889.

**Donald.** An inland post office in Valley precinct, probably named for a local settler.

**Dunwell.** This town was named in honor of the persons who started the first post office, William Dunbar and Frank Wells.

**Eclipse.** The name was selected by three or four ranchers meeting at the home of A. J. Gragg. It is thought that the office was named independently, not after any other place or person.

**Hecla.** This town was presumably named by the Grand Island and Wyoming Central Railroad Company, now a part of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, probably directly or indirectly for the volcano in Iceland. The precinct has the same name.

**Kelso.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Mullen precinct. The name is probably local in origin.

**Moore.** An inland place and a post office in Valley precinct, named for Mr. Moore, a local ranchman.

**Mullen.** This village was named by the officials of the Burlington railroad after a contractor who operated in the vicinity. It is the county seat of Hooker county. The precinct has the same name.

**Weir.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Hecla precinct, probably named for a local resident.

## HOWARD COUNTY

Howard county was organized and the boundaries defined by an act approved March 1, 1871, and again organized by an act approved March 28, 1871. It was named in honor of General Oliver Otis Howard (1830-1909), a prominent officer during the Civil War. It is sometimes stated that the county was named after Howard Paul, son of an early settler.

**Boelus.** A village near the southwest corner of Howard county, in Lake Fork precinct, a junction point of two branches of the Union Pacific railroad. The name Boelus comes from the Belus, a small river of Palestine, described by Pliny as rising at the foot of Mt. Carmel and falling into the sea near Ptolemais (Acre), celebrated from the well known tradition that its fine sand led the Phoenicians to the invention of glass. The name Belus was also used by the Greeks for the national hero and deity of certain Semitic nations.

**Coatesfield.** This town was named in honor of a Miss Coates who, with General Augur and his daughter, visited in the vicinity as guests of Captain Munson.

**Cushing.** Cushing was named for James Cushing, an early settler in the community.

**Dannebrog.** A Danish colony from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, made the first settlement here in May, 1871. The post office was established in the winter of 1872-73 and named in honor of the Danish flag.

**Elba.** This town was named by the railroad company after a peculiar curve in the road south of town. This curve was known as "elbow curve" and in applying it to the town the railroad company modified it a little by calling it Elba. The town started in 1882.

**Farwell.** The original name of this town was Posen, so named by a settlement of Polish people. Owing to a disagreement concerning nationality the name was changed by petition to Farwell, sug-

gesting the Danish word for *good-bye*, that is, "good-bye Posen," or the passing from Polish to Danish. At the present time the majority of the settlement are Polish.

**Nysted.** The citizens of Nysted named their town for a town in Denmark, from which the majority of them had come.

**Saint Libory.** This town was named for Saint Libory, Illinois, the home of many of the early settlers.

**Saint Paul.** The first settlement was made by J. N. and N. J. Paul in the spring of 1871 and the town was laid out October 10, 1871. When the time came to select a name for the new town, N. J. Paul suggested Athens, which was finally decided upon. A petition was sent to the post office department at Washington for the establishment of an office called Athens at this place. The petition was returned, however, because there was already a post office by that name in the state. The matter was then referred to Phineas W. Hitchcock, United States senator for Nebraska, who suggested the name Saint Paul in honor of the founders of the town. Saint Paul is the county seat of Howard county.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY

This county was named after Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), third president of the United States. Its boundaries were defined and the county established by an act of the legislature approved January 26, 1856.

**Daykin.** Named in honor of John Daykin who entered and formerly owned the land on which the town is located.

**Diller.** This town was laid out in 1881. It is named in honor of H. H. Diller, one of the oldest settlers in the vicinity.

**Endicott.** Endicott was named for William C. Endicott, an attorney for Boston, Massachusetts, who was secretary of war in President Cleveland's cabinet. Mr. Endicott was born November 19, 1827, and died May 6, 1900.

**Fairbury.** The site of Fairbury was surveyed and platted in August, 1869, by Woodford G. McDowell and James B. Mattingly. It was named after Fairbury, Illinois, the home of Mr. McDowell. Fairbury is the county seat of Jefferson county.

**Gladstone.** Named by M. A. Low, general attorney of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific railroad for the English statesman, William E. Gladstone.

**Harbine.** The site of Harbine was laid out in 1881. It was named in honor of Colonel Thomas Harbine of Fairbury.

**Helvey.** Named after Thomas Helvey, one of the first white settlers of Jefferson county, who located in the vicinity on March 25, 1859.

**Jansen.** The virtual proprietor of this town was Peter Jansen (1852-1923) and the site was named in his honor. Peter Jansen was a Mennonite emigrant from Berdjinsk, Russia. He was state senator, a commissioner to the Paris Exposition, and represented Nebraska at the Louisiana Exposition, 1904. He died at Beatrice, Nebraska, June 6, 1923. Jansen, Saskatchewan, was also named for him.

**Kesterson.** Named in honor of John C. Kesterson of Fairbury.

**Meridian.** This town dates back to the fall of 1868 and was the first town in the county to be surveyed and platted. It was named after the sixth principal meridian line on which it is located. The town is now extinct but the precinct still retains the name.

**Plymouth.** Plymouth was named after a colony of early settlers from New England who located in the vicinity.

**Powell.** This town was named by the Nebraska Land and Town Company in honor of James D. Powell, Reuben Powell, and the Powell families who were among the first white settlers in the vicinity. The Powells settled here in March, 1865.

**Reynolds.** Named for the father of a Mr. Reynolds, contractor for the Burlington and Missouri railroad.

**Steele City.** Steele City was laid out in 1873. It was named by the Nebraska Land and Town Company in honor of Dudley M. Steele, president of the Saint Joseph and Denver City railroad.

**Thompson.** Named for I. N. Thompson, virtual proprietor of the town.

## JOHNSON COUNTY

Johnson county was named in honor of Colonel Richard M. Johnson (1781-1850) of Kentucky, vice-president of the United States (1837-1841). Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 2, 1855. They were reestablished and defined February 10, 1857.

**Cook.** This town was named by a Mr. Cook who owned much of the land in the vicinity at the time when the town was platted. Mr. Cook wished to name the town for his eldest daughter, but his son and two other daughters would not hear of such partiality. On this account Mr. Cook named the town for all of his children, he said.

**Crab Orchard.** The original town of Crab Orchard was about one mile west of its present site. At that time a crab-apple orchard was located on the town-site and on this account the town was so named.

**Elk Creek.** This place is near the southeastern corner of Johnson county on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, in the vicinity of Elk creek, after which it was named. The creek owes its name to the former presence of elk along its course.

**Graf.** This town was named in honor of L. A. Graf who donated the town site.

**Saint Mary.** The original name of this village was Smartville, after Mr. Smart, an early local settler, who kept a general store, but a number of citizens objected to this name and made efforts to change it. At that time a new parochial school was built and called Saint Mary's Parochial School. A movement was started to change the name of the village to Saint Mary and the change was approved by the post office department.

**Sterling.** John Mann, one of the first settlers of this town, came from Sterling, Illinois, and named Sterling, Nebraska, after his old home.

**Tecumseh.** The town of Tecumseh was laid out by John Maulden in 1856. It was first named Frances in honor of the wife of General Johnson for whom the county was named. A year later the name was changed to Tecumseh in honor of the Indian chief who was killed by Colonel Johnson at the battle of the Thames in 1813. The county seat was established here by an act of the legislature approved February 13, 1857.

**Vesta.** The land on which the village of Vesta stands was homesteaded by J. W. Hall who was later postmaster. The office was established at the home of W. H. Strong. At that time his brother, Marshall Strong, a schoolmaster from Massachusetts, was visiting with him. The name Vesta was chosen on recommendation of Marshall Strong after a little girl whose name was Vesta, a pupil of his, in Massachusetts. An erroneous local tradition claims that Vesta was named after a daughter of J. W. Hall.

## KEARNEY COUNTY

Kearney county was named for old Fort Kearney. The history of the county dates back to the establishment of the fort in 1848. The fort was named for Major General Stephen Watts Kearny (1794-1848). Gannett states in his work on place names that the county was named for General Philip Kearny. The county was or-

ganized and the boundaries defined by an act approved January 10, 1860.

**Axtell.** This town was named for an engineer on a Burlington passenger train.

**Heartwell.** A village on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Paton precinct. It was named for J. B. Heartwell of Hastings, Nebraska, a prominent citizen, president of the Nebraska Loan and Trust Company of Hastings, and one time state senator.

**Keene.** The village of Keene was named for a workman who located for a few months in the vicinity.

**Lowell.** The site of this town was changed in 1871. It was named for the poet, James Russell Lowell. The precinct has the same name.

**Minden.** Mr. Fred Bredemier, the first postmaster for Minden, named this town after his old home, Minden, Germany. The town-site was selected in December, 1876, and at that time the German population predominated. Minden is the county seat of Kearney county.

**Newark.** The first settlement in this vicinity was made by A. J. Lindbeck in May, 1877. Mr. A. E. Touzalin, general manager of the Burlington railroad at that time, suggested the name Newark for the town. It has also been said that the person who owned the town-site came from Newark, New Jersey, and named the new town after his old home.

**Norman.** This town was named for John and Carl Norman in consideration of the fact that they owned the eighty acres which comprised the town-site.

**Wilcox.** The town of Wilcox was named in honor of one of its founders, Henry Wilcox.

## KEITH COUNTY

Keith county was named in honor of Mr. M. C. Keith of North Platte. Mr. Keith was the grandfather of Keith Neville, recently governor of Nebraska. The boundaries were defined by an act approved February 27, 1873. The county was organized on May 3, 1873. Gannett states in his work on place names that the county was named for John Keith of North Platte, Nebraska.

**Belmar.** A village of the Union Pacific railroad in Lonergan precinct, probably named for some official of the railway.

**Bertha.** This town was named in honor of Miss Bertha Matthews, the daughter of the first postmaster.

**Brule.** The town of Brule, in Brule precinct, was named after the Brulé tribe of the Teton Sioux Indians. Brulé, burned, is the French translation of *Sichángxu*, burnt thighs, the Indian name of uncertain origin.

**Keystone.** Mr. W. A. Paxton, a large cattle owner in the early days, used the keystone brand for his cattle. His ranch was also called Keystone, probably because he used this brand. Later a settlement was established in the vicinity and was called Keystone on account of these facts.

**Lemoyne.** A large tract of land in this vicinity was at one time owned by Mr. Lemoyne Jacobs. When the railroad was built through the county, Mr. Jacobs' was very liberal toward the company and gave it the right of way through his land. In return for this favor the company built a depot on Mr. Jacob's land and named the station Lemoyne in his honor. Mr. Jacobs now lives a mile north of the depot. He is one of the oldest settlers in the western part of Nebraska where he has lived for over forty years.

**Ogallala.** This town was named for the Oglala (often spelled Ogalalla) tribe of the Teton Sioux Indians. It is the county seat of Keith county. The precinct has the same name. The word *Oglala* means "to scatter one's own."

**Oren.** A former, inland post office in White Tail precinct. It was named for Oren F. Chesebro, the postmaster, or for his son Oren.

**Paxton.** A village on the Union Pacific railroad in Paxton precinct. It and the precinct were named for W. A. Paxton of Omaha, Nebraska.

**Roscoe.** The town of Roscoe was named for an old siding which was established on the main line of the Union Pacific railroad in 1868.

**Sarben.** This town was named from *Aksarben* or the first six letters of Nebraska reversed in order.

### KEYA PAHA COUNTY.

Keya Paha is the Dakota Indian name of a hill and the river was named from that hill, *ke'-ya*, turtle; *pa-ha'*, hill; *Ke'-ya*, turtle; *Pa-ha'*, hill; *wa-kpa'*, river, Turtle Hill river. The Keya Paha river runs through the northeastern portion of Keya Paha county. It is usually stated that the county was named Keya Paha because of its many, small, rounded hills. This county was formed from Brown county by vote, November 4, 1884.

**Brocksburg.** The founder of the town was Henry Brockman and he named the town Brocksburg after himself.

**Burton.** The town of Burton was named for a Mr. Burton who conducted a country store here when the county was first settled. The precinct in which the town is located was also named for Mr. Burton by the county commissioners at the organization of the county.

**Carns.** In 1879 the settlers chose the name Elm Grove for the office to be established. This name was changed by the U. S. post office department to Carns and so far as is known the name chosen was not in honor of any place or person.

**Eclipse.** An inland locality in Holt precinct.

**Enterprise.** Enterprise was named by the early settlers in this vicinity who wished to give notice that their neighborhood "was made up of enterprising people." The post office here has been discontinued.

**Jamison.** This town was named in honor of its founder S. P. Jamison. It is in Keya Paha precinct.

**Marlbank.** An inland village and a former post office in Holt precinct. The name is apparently locally descriptive.

**Meadville.** The first postmaster in this town was Merrit I. Mead, for whom the office was named. The office was established in 1883 in Brown county and discontinued in 1896. It was reestablished in Keya Paha county in 1904.

**Mills.** Mills was so named because a grist-mill was once operated in the town. The precinct is also named Mills.

**Norden.** The town of Norden was established in 1885. A man by the name of Bastedo was the first settler. He came from Germany and named this town after a town near the North Sea in Germany.

**Pinecamp.** An inland village and a post office in Pine precinct. The name is locally descriptive for both the precinct and the village as there is pine timber in the vicinity.

**Riverview.** A village and a post office in Pine precinct. The name is locally descriptive as the village is near the Niobrara river.

**Simpson.** This post office was named after H. J. Simpson who homesteaded here in 1880 and was the first postmaster. He was also elected the first sheriff of Brown county. The precinct is also named Simpson.

**Springview.** This town, the county seat of Keya Paha county, was so named because a spring used to flow not far from the town square. There is a tradition that one of the early settlers, John F. Carr, in order to procure the location of the town, hauled water and kept this spring running until after the town was located. Since that time no water has come from the spring.

## KIMBALL COUNTY

Kimball county was named in honor of Thomas L. Kimball (1831-1899), vice president and general manager of the Union Pacific railroad. It was organized in 1888. Gannett's treatise on the origin of place names erroneously gives the honor to John P. Kimball. Kimball county was formed from Cheyenne county by vote November 6, 1888.

**Beacon.** This place is in the northwest part of Kimball county, in Bushnell precinct. It was named after the local postmaster.

**Bethel.** This place is situated in Dix precinct. It was named after a local sod church which was dedicated "Bethel" by the pioneer minister in charge, after Bethel, Palestine, meaning in Hebrew "house of God," from *beth*, house and *el*, God. The post office has been discontinued.

**Bushnell.** Bushnell in Bushnell precinct, was named for a civil engineer on the Union Pacific railroad.

**Crossbar.** This place was named for the cattle brand of the man in charge of the post office. It was located near the east side of Johnson precinct. The post office has been discontinued.

**Dix.** The original town of Dix was laid out by C. T. Robertson and secured its name from Dixon, Illinois, the former home of Margaret Robertson, the owner of the land. It has been stated that the town was named for General Dix of the Federal army in the Civil War, but this information is not authentic.

**Gifford.** The post office at Gifford no longer exists. It was named for William Gifford who homesteaded the land on which it was located. Mr. Gifford sold his property and moved away; and at that time the office was discontinued.

**Kimball.** The original name of this place was Antelopeville, so named because of the prevalence of antelope in the vicinity. As there was a post office in the state called Antelope the name was changed in 1885 to Kimball, in honor of Thomas L. Kimball, vice president and general manager of the Union Pacific railroad. Kimball is the county seat of Kimball county. The precinct is still called Antelope.

**Hodges.** Hodges is located in Dix precinct and was named after Earl R. Hodges, the postmaster.

**Kauffman.** This place was named for Mrs. Cora B. Kauffman, the postmaster. It is situated near the south line of the county.

**Oliver.** This station was named for Oliver Ames, a prominent Union Pacific contractor and builder. The original name was Adam, for Adam Ames, a brother of Oliver; but as there was another sta-

tion on the Union Pacific railroad called Adam the change was made. There is an "Ames Monument" at the top of Sherman Hill, Wyoming, dedicated to these brothers.

**Owasco.** This is a station on the Union Pacific railroad. It was so named from the fact that it was opposite the "Circle Arrow Ranch," the "O" representing the circle and "co" meaning the company.

**Parker.** This post office is in the northwest part of Kimball county, in Bushnell precinct. It was named after Harold H. Parker, the postmaster.

**Smeed.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad. It was named for an Irishman who was foreman on a large horse ranch owned and operated by the Creighton interests of Omaha.

**Troy.** This neighborhood is near the northwest corner of Kimball county, in Bushnell precinct. The post office, Troy, when established was named after the local postmaster.

## KNOX COUNTY

Knox county was named in honor of Major General Henry Knox (1750-1806). It was originally named L'Eau Qui Court county but was renamed by the legislature at the request of Representative David Quimby by an act approved February 21, 1873. The county was established and its boundaries defined by an act approved February 10, 1857, and redefined January 13, 1860.

**Bazile Mills.** An inland village and a former post office in Creighton precinct. One of the early local mills was built in this place on Bazile creek, hence the name. The name of the creek is probably derived from Bazeilles, Ardennes, France.

**Bloomfield.** The town of Bloomfield was named in honor of Bloomfield Dyer who at one time owned the land on which the town-site is now located.

**Blyville.** A former village which was named, according to Gannett's treatise for George W. Bly, an early settler in the vicinity.

**Center.** This town received its name from the fact that it is located in the center of the county. It is the county seat of Knox county.

**Creighton.** This town was named by a Mr. Bruce, who was interested in the locality, in honor of John A. Creighton, an early resident of Omaha and the founder of the John A. Creighton Medical College of Creighton University. The Pioneer Town-Site Company laid out the town in 1885. Gannett's treatise erroneously

gives the honor to Edward Creighton who inspired the foundation of Creighton University. The precinct has the same name.

**Crofton.** Mr. J. T. M. Pierce named this town after Crofton Court, a place he owned in England. He spent much time and money in procuring the construction of the railroad through this town. According to another account Mr. Pierce came to America shortly after the Civil War and bought large tracts of land for a wealthy Englishman named Crofton. Then when the town-site was plotted by Pierce he gave it the name Crofton after Mr. Crofton of England who never visited America.

**Jelen.** The post office at Jelen which marked the beginning of the town was established in the early part of 1904. Anton Jelen, a Bohemian, was appointed postmaster on February 8, 1904, and conducted the office in his general merchandise store at this place. The postmaster-general selected the name Jelen for this office in his honor. The precinct is named Bohemia because it was settled by Bohemians.

**Knoxville.** This place was named by William Darnelle, a pioneer of Knox county, Nebraska, after his former residence city of Knoxville, Illinois. It is in Washington precinct.

**Le Blanc.** The post office at Le Blanc was named in honor of G. A. Le Blanc who started a store in the neighborhood and also was postmaster at one time. The post office has been discontinued and there is very little of the settlement left.

**Millerboro.** This inland village and its precinct, Miller, were named for Captain J. M. Miller, the first settler in the vicinity.

**Niobrara.** This town was named after the Niobrara river. It is situated near its mouth. The precinct has the same name. The name Niobrara was given to the river by the Omaha and Ponca Indians and it means spreading water or spreading river (from *ni*, water, and *bthatha*, spreading). The meaning is frequently given as "running water," through confusion arising from the translation of the Pawnee name of the same river, Kitsu Kakis (from *kitsu*, water, and *kakis*, rapid) which may be translated rapid water or running water. This translation gives the name to the village, Running Water, located a few miles northeast of Niobrara, in South Dakota. The county seat was located at Niobrara by an act of the legislature approved February 14, 1877.

**Pishelville.** Anton Pischel was the founder of this town and established the second post office in Knox county here in May, 1871. The town was named in his honor.

**Reidsville.** A former village in Knox county, named for Charles J. Reid, the first settler.

**Santee.** An inland village near the Missouri river in Santee precinct. It and the precinct were named for the Santee Sioux (Dakota) Indians. Doctor Charles Alexander Eastman, the noted ethnologist and Indian physician, received his early education in the school in this village.

**Sparta.** This is an inland place in Sparta precinct. It was probably named after Sparta, Wisconsin, or possibly after Sparta, Illinois. The name comes from Sparta in Greece.

**Venus.** So named by S. L. Whitmore because of the beauty of the surrounding country.

**Verdigre.** The post office here was originally named Verdigris after a former post office in the vicinity which was named after Verdigris creek. The town, however, was always called Verdigre and later the name of the post office was changed to Verdigre in order to correspond to the name of the town. The precinct has the same name. The name of the creek was suggested by the presence of green copper ore.

**Walnut.** This town was so named because of the numerous walnut trees in the vicinity.

**Wausa.** Two Lutheran ministers, Foglelstrom and Torell, named this town in honor of Gustavus Vasa, the first Protestant King of Sweden. The spelling of Wausa was adopted because it conformed with the pronunciation of the name. The town was established in 1890.

**Winnetoon.** The town of Winnetoon was named by W. F. Fitch, an official of the railroad, after a farm in Dane county, Wisconsin, owned by Nathan Deane.

## LANCASTER COUNTY

Lancaster county was named after the town and county of Lancaster in Pennsylvania which were named after Lancaster county, England. Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 6, 1855. The county was reestablished and its boundaries redefined by an act approved January 26, 1856.

**Agnew.** This village was named after William James Agnew, of Plattsmouth, Nebraska, who was for a short time a railroad contractor and later a popular railway conductor.

**Arbor.** A station on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad, north of Lincoln, in North Bluff precinct. The name was probably given by Joy Morton, the owner of the land, because of the timber in the vicinity. Mr. Morton recently donated the arboretum, known as Arbor Lodge, situated near Nebraska City, to the State of Nebraska, in perpetuity as a public park.

**Belmont.** This village is a suburb on the north side of Lincoln. The name is from the French *belle montagne*, "beautiful mountain", and the village was so named because it is situated on high prairie or a ridge north of Salt Creek valley.

**Bennett.** When the Midland Pacific railroad was built through here in 1871, the town of Bennett was surveyed and platted. It was named in honor of John Bennett, a local resident, who was one of the officials of the road.

**Berks.** Highland was the original name of this town. It was renamed Berks by the Burlington and Missouri railroad probably after Berks county, Pennsylvania. The post office has recently been discontinued. There is a tradition that the town was named for a Mr. Berks, presumably a local settler. The precinct is still known as Highland. The central portion of the precinct is a watershed or high land, hence the name.

**Bethany.** J. Z. Briscoe, of Lincoln, later of Bethany, one of the founders of the town, selected the name after Bethany, a village near Jerusalem, Palestine. His main reason for selecting this name was that Bethany, Palestine, was a suburb of Jerusalem, the educational center of the Jewish people. Thus, Bethany, Nebraska, was to be the suburb of Lincoln, the educational center of the people of Nebraska. This town was laid out and settled by the religious sect known as the Disciples. The incorporated and official title of Bethany is Bethany Heights. The word Bethany is from Hebrew, *beth*, house, and *ani*, poverty or misery.

**Burnham.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, southwest of Lincoln, in Yankee Hill precinct. It was named for S. W. Burnham, an early owner of land in the vicinity.

**Cheney.** Cheney was platted in 1874. It was named in memory of a man by that name who was the first settler on the town-site. Cheney is shortened from Cheyney's Station the name by which the town was originally called.

**Cobb.** This place is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, southwest of Lincoln, in Denton precinct. It was named for an early owner of land in the vicinity.

**College View.** So named because it is the home of Union College built by the church of the Adventists.

**Cushman.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, as well as a near-by park, in Garfield precinct, named for an early resident.

**Davey.** The site of Davey was platted in 1886 by the Western Town and Lot Company. It was located partly on the farm of Mr. Michael Davey for whom it was named.

**Denton.** Denton was laid out in 1871 and named in honor of Mr. Daniel M. Denton, homesteader of the land on which the town is built. The precinct has the same name.

**Emerald.** The name Emerald was given to this town because of its location in what the settlers called "the most beautiful green spot in this country." The town is bordered on the east by beautiful green trees, on the west by a rolling hill, and here and there in the vicinity are frog-ponds full of green foliage and pond lilies.

**Firth.** The town of Firth was laid out in 1873. It was named in honor of Superintendent Firth of the Atchison and Nebraska railroad.

**Hallam.** Hallam was laid out in 1892 by the Kansas Town and Land Company. It is in Buda precinct.

**Havelock.** Settlement was begun in this vicinity in the late eighties. The town was named for Sir Henry Havelock (1785-1857), an English general, the hero of the siege of Lucknow.

**Hickman.** This town was laid out by C. H. Hickman in 1872 and was named in his honor.

**Holland.** The first settlements were made in this vicinity before there were any railroads west of the Missouri river, and all merchandise had to be carried overland from Nebraska City. The name of this town was derived from a party of immigrants from the Netherlands who settled here in 1867. They were generally known as Hollanders.

**Jamaica.** This is a station on the Union Pacific railroad in Yankee Hill precinct and was platted in 1885. It was probably named for Jamaica, New York.

**Kramer.** The land on which Kramer is located was given by a Mr. Kramer, for whom the town was named. The site was laid out in 1888.

**Lancaster.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in south Lincoln. The name derives from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

**Lincoln.** Originally named Lancaster, the county seat of Lancaster county. The site of Lincoln as capitol of the state of Nebraska was formally located in July, 1867. The name was chosen in honor of President Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was made the county seat of Lancaster county by an act approved February 12, 1869.

**Malcolm.** Malcolm A. Showers once owned the section of land of which Malcolm is now a part. The town was named for him and was laid out in 1877.

**Martel.** Martel was named by R. J. Greene, A. G. Beeson, and H. M. Bushnell of Lincoln who bought the land and laid out the town-site, in honor of Charles Martel, the Hammer, king of the Franks, 689-741.

**Normal.** The location of Normal included the site of the Lincoln Normal School for which the town was named. The school no longer exists and the town has become a part of the city of Lincoln, though the post office is still maintained.

**Panama.** This village was founded in the late seventies and is located on the Missouri Pacific railroad in Panama precinct. It was probably named for the Isthmus of Panama or the Panama canal, which were then more or less discussed.

**Pecks Grove.** A station on the Missouri Pacific railroad on the east side of Lincoln. It was named for Philetus Peck, the owner of the land and planter of the neighboring grove.

**Pella.** An inland village near the southeastern corner of Lancaster county in Panama precinct. It was founded by Hollanders from Pella, Marion county, Iowa, and was named by them after their former home. Pella, Iowa, was colonized by Dutch emigrants to whom the word "Pella" meant "city of refuge." The name derives from Pella, the ancient capital of the Macedonian empire and the birthplace of Alexander the Great.

**Prairie Home.** A man by the name of Waite who owned a farm one-half mile south of this village named it Prairie Home. Mr. Waite was the first agent on the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific railroad in this village. It is thought that he named it Prairie Home because the post office was at that time in a private dwelling on the prairie.

**Princeton.** This village is located on the Union Pacific railroad and was founded in 1886. It was probably named for Princeton, New Jersey.

**Raymond.** This town was named after I. M. Raymond, the senior member of the firm of Raymond Brothers and Clark, wholesale grocers of Lincoln. It was platted in 1880.

**Roca.** Roca was laid out in 1876. In the early days the chief industry in this vicinity was stone quarrying. When the town was laid out in 1876, the citizens wished to choose a name which would suggest this industry. Roca was decided upon since this is the Spanish word for stone.

**Rokeby.** This village was probably named for Sir Walter Scott's poem, *Rokeby*.

**Saltillo.** This village was founded in September, 1882. It was probably named for Saltillo, Mexico. Saltillo is from the Spanish

word *salto*, meaning leap or bound; *saltillo*, a little hop or a little leap. The neighboring precinct has the same name.

**Sprague.** This town was surveyed on the Missouri Pacific railroad in 1888 by a Mr. Sprague, for whom it was named.

**Summit.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in South Pass precinct. It is situated on or near the crest of the watershed or divide, hence the name.

**University Place.** So named because it is the location of Nebraska Wesleyan University. It was previously named Athens.

**Walton.** Named after A. Walton who homesteaded about three miles northeast of the present village and who ran the first pony express to his farm where the post office was at the time. When the railway was built and the new town was located, it retained the old name.

**Waverly.** The settlement of Waverly dates back to about 1868. The town was named for Sir Walter Scott's historical novel, *Waverley*, and the streets are also named from the same work. The precinct has the same name.

**West Lincoln.** A village on the Union Pacific railroad northwest of Lincoln in West Lincoln precinct. The name derives from Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Woodlawn.** A village on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, in Oak precinct. The name is locally descriptive, there being timber in the vicinity. The name of the precinct is also arboreal in origin and for a local reason. Oak creek which runs through this precinct has its name for the same reason, that is for the bur oak timber in the vicinity.

## LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln county was organized and the boundaries defined by an act of the legislature approved January 7, 1860, under the name of Shorter county. The name was changed to Lincoln county in 1866 in honor of President Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865). The boundaries were redefined March 1, 1871.

**Arna.** An inland locality in Wells precinct. The name derives from a village in the Grecian Archipelago.

**Bignell.** This town was named for E. C. Bignell of Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Bignell was superintendent of the Burlington and Missouri railroad out of Lincoln at the time when the road was established.

**Birdwood.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad west of North Platte. The northwest precinct of Lincoln county has the

same name. Both descriptive names are local in origin and are named after Birdwood creek. Birdwood creek which flows through the precinct has a locally descriptive name. Birdwood creek is a literal translation of the Dakota Indian name *Zintka-cha<sup>n</sup> Wakpala* for the same creek, so given because the birdwood or indigo shrub (*Amorpha fruticosa*) is commonly growing along the stream.

**Brady.** This village was platted by G. D. and Mabel Mather-son, January 28, 1889, and was incorporated in 1907. It is situated in Brady Island precinct and both the precinct and the town were named after the first settler in the vicinity. Mr. Brady is believed to have been killed by the Indians about the year 1859. Another and more circumstantial account is that he was murdered in 1833 by a French companion who had quarreled with him. Both were members of a party of trappers coming down the Platte river and had camped upon the island now known as Brady Island. Shortly afterwards the Frenchman met a violent death, presumably by the hand of a friend of Brady; but the report was given out that he had accidentally shot himself and was later picked up by the Pawnees and died while in their care. The island where the first tragedy occurred has been known ever since as Brady Island.\*

**Denmark.** A former post office and a community in Fox Creek precinct, settled chiefly by Danish emigrants, hence the name.

**Dexter.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad in Sunshine precinct, west side of Lincoln county. The name is probably local in origin.

**Dickens.** The town of Dickens was named for the English author, Charles Dickens.

**Echo.** A descriptive name for a former inland postoffice and locality in Wells precinct.

**Gannett.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad, east of North Platte, in Hall precinct. It was named for J. W. Gannett, auditor for the railway.

**Garfield.** President James A. Garfield was assassinated about the time Garfield post office was established. It was named in his honor, as well as the precinct in which it is situated. The post office has been discontinued.

**Hershey.** The town of Hershey was named after J. H. Hershey, an early settler and a large rancher and land owner. Mr. Hershey was a business partner of William Paxton and through the influence of Mr. Paxton with the railroad company he was able to get a siding and as an honor to Mr. Hershey it was named for him about the year 1890.

\* See Shumway, *History of Western Nebraska and Its People*, vol. 2, p. 32.

**Hindrey.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad in Brady precinct, probably named for a local resident or a railroad man.

**Ingham.** Ingham post office was named for a man by that name who was travelling through the country at the time when the office was established.

**Maxwell.** The original name of this town was McPherson, after the near-by fort which was named for Major-General James B. McPherson, of Civil War fame. The Union Pacific railroad changed the name to Maxwell in honor of an early official on the road. The precinct has the same name. The near-by national cemetery retains the name Fort McPherson.

**Myrtle.** This town was named in honor of Myrtle Brink, a young lady who lived in the vicinity. The precinct has the same name.

**Nichols.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad in Nichols precinct. The name is probably for a local resident or a railroad man.

**North Platte.** The town of North Platte was laid out for the Union Pacific railroad by General G. M. Dodge in November, 1866. It is situated on the North Platte river, hence its name. It is the county seat of Lincoln county.

**O'Fallons.** A junction point on the Union Pacific railroad. It received its name from a bluff in the vicinity. It is believed, probably correctly, that the bluff was named for Major Benjamin O'Fallon, soldier, Indian agent, and trader. It is also claimed that the name is for a hunter who was killed in the vicinity.

**Somerset.** This place is situated in Somerset precinct on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad. It apparently was named after Somerset, Massachusetts.

**Spannuth.** A former inland post office near the east side of Lincoln county in Spannuth precinct, both names are probably local in origin.

**Spears.** The name for a former inland post office and a locality near the northwest corner of Lincoln county in Birdwood precinct, local in origin.

**Sutherland.** This town was named for a Mr. Sutherland who was one of the high officials of the Union Pacific railroad in 1869, when the town was laid out and named.

**Vroman.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad on the east side of Lincoln county in Vroman precinct. It and the precinct were named for William Vroman, a resident of the vicinity.

**Wallace.** The Lincoln Town-Site Company laid out this town and the head of that company named the town in honor of his son-in-law, Wallace.

**Wellfleet.** This village was named after Wellfleet, Massachusetts. The name is said to be a corruption of "whale fleet."

**Whittier.** This place is a former post office in Whittier precinct which is located on the north line of Lincoln county. It and the precinct were named for the poet, John Greenleaf Whittier.

**Willard.** The name for an inland locality in Cox precinct, probably local in origin.

### LOGAN COUNTY

Logan county was named in honor of General John A. Logan (1826-1886). In the early days this county was largely settled by Civil War veterans. Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved February 24, 1885.

**Ford.** The post office at Ford was so named because it was located at the home of "Bud" Ford. It has been discontinued for some time.

**Gandy.** The town of Gandy was named in honor of James Gandy, one of the oldest settlers. Mr. Gandy built the first court house in Logan county, of which Gandy is the county seat. The precinct has the same name.

**Gem.** A former post office near the northeast corner of Logan county, in Burt precinct. It was so named by C. T. Johnson who owned the land where the post office was located.

**Hoagland.** This place was named for W. V. Hoagland, an attorney of North Platte, Nebraska, who homesteaded the land on which the village was laid out.

**Kirsch.** The post office at Kirsch was located at the home of F. J. Kirsch, a farmer living north of Stapleton, Nebraska, and was named in his honor. This office has been discontinued.

**Logan.** This town was named for Logan county in which it is located. The precinct has the same name.

**Stapleton.** This place is at the terminus of a branch of the Union Pacific railroad and near the line of Gandy and Dorp precincts. It was named for a friend of Harry O'Neill by the name of Stapleton, a partner of the town-site promoter who offered to give a donation to the town of Stapleton.

**Wagner.** This office is located in Burt precinct. It was named for Mr. Wegener, the man who owned the ranch on which it is located.

## LOUP COUNTY

Loup County was named after the Loup river which flows through it. The boundaries of the original county were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 6, 1855; and were re-defined by an act approved February 23, 1883. Gannett's treatise on place names states that Loup county was named for the tribe of Pawnee Loups. More probably the Loup river was so named.

**Almeria.** When the Almeria post office was established about thirty-five years ago, several names were submitted but none were very satisfactory. The name Almeria was suggested by the United States post office department and adopted. The town was named in honor of Almeria Strohl, wife of Wess Strohl, the founder of Almeria. The precinct in which Almeria is situated is called Strohl, after Wess Strohl.

**Calamus.** The town of Calamus was named after the Calamus river which is in the immediate vicinity. The post office has been discontinued. Calamus river is a translation of the Dakota name *Sinkpe-ta-wote Wakpa*. *Sinkpe-ta-wote* (food of the muskrat) is the Dakota name of calamus or sweet flag, *wakpa* means river.

**Ferguson.** Named after a Scotchman, John Ferguson, an early immigrant to the vicinity and who lived just over the line in Blaine county.

**Gracie.** The town of Gracie, and also Gracie creek, were named for a man by that name who was an old settler in the vicinity. A local tradition gives the following account. Gracie post office was named after Gracie creek. Gracie creek was named for a little blind girl named Grace. Her people were traveling through the country and camped on the bank of the creek for several days. Little Grace loved to play in the water, and the creek was named Gracie in her honor. This is the story told by the local, old ranchmen with regard to how Gracie creek was named.

**Moulton.** The Moulton post office was named in honor of L. M. Moulton who was instrumental in having it established. Mr. Moulton was also the first postmaster, serving in that capacity for a long term of years.

**Ovitt.** The post office was named in honor of Mrs. Laura R. Ovitt who was its first postmistress.

**Taylor.** The town of Taylor is named from the post office established here about 1881, which in turn was named in honor of Ed Taylor, a local pioneer. Taylor is the county seat of Loup county. The precinct has the same name.

**Valleyview.** This post office is situated on a high elevation which has a good view of the neighboring valley for several miles and on this account was named Valleyview by Walter Hesselgesser, the postmaster.

### MCPHERSON COUNTY

McPherson county was organized by Governor Thayer in 1890. Its boundaries were defined by an act of Legislature, March 31, 1887. The county was named in honor of General James B. McPherson (1828-1864), of Civil War fame.

**Brighton.** A former post office in Tryon precinct. In pioneer days a family by the name of Brighton homesteaded in the vicinity and the locality was known as Brighton valley. When the post office was established it took the same name.

**Chandler.** The Chandler post office, in Worden precinct, was named for an elderly lady, Mrs. S. L. Chandler, who was living in the vicinity at the time the office was established. Mrs. Chandler is at present living in Sullivan county, Indiana.

**Flats.** During the homestead days a Mrs. Lombard and two of her sons homesteaded land about three miles from this town in a broad valley which came to be known as "Lombard Flats." Later the Lombard home was selected for the post office and in choosing a name, Lombard was omitted and the office was called "Flats." Since then the post office has been moved several times but it has retained the same name.

**Forks.** This town was so named because of its location at the fork of East and West Birdwood creek. The post office here has been discontinued for several years.

**Lemley.** A locality in Lemley precinct, both named for a local resident. The pioneer postmaster was George M. Brooks and he named the post office after his infant son, Lemley Brooks. The post office has been discontinued.

**Lilac.** The name Lilac was selected by the government from a list of several names suggested for this post office. A small lilac bush was growing in the yard of the family who wished to establish the office, and therefore they included the name Lilac in the list of the names which they submitted.

**Mayflower.** A former post office near the line of Tryon and Cottonwood precincts.

**Nesbit.** A recently discontinued post office in Lemley precinct, apparently named for a local resident.

**Ney.** A former post office near the northeastern corner of McPherson county, in Hall precinct, named for a local resident.

**Omega.** This town was named Omega after a biblical reference, "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and ending" of *Revelation*. On the frontier the word *omega* meant the last or the end of things. This post office was at the end of the star mail route out from Gandy, hence the name. The post office has been discontinued.

**Ringgold.** There was at one time a post office in Dawson county called Ringgold. This office was discontinued and some of the residents of the town moved to McPherson county. When a new town was started here it was named by these residents after the old town in Dawson county. On old maps the Dawson county village is given as Ringold.

**Summit.** An inland post office in the northeastern part of McPherson county in Hall precinct. It was so named because of its elevated position. Formerly the post office was in the southwestern part of Thomas county in Dismal precinct.

**Tryon.** Authorities and old residents differ on the subject of the naming of this town. Some say it was named for William Tryon, a colonial governor of America (1725-1788); others say it was named by Judge Neville of North Platte, Nebraska; and still others say that it was named by Mrs. Jay Smith, now of Kearney, Nebraska, who said: "Let's keep trying on to have a town." Tryon is the county seat of McPherson county.

**Valyrang.** The post office was established at the home of Mrs. Lou Hurd who sent in this name to the United States post office department. She spelled the name Valley Rang but the post office department shortened the name to Valyrang.

## MADISON COUNTY

Madison county was organized in December, 1867. It was named Madison at the suggestion of the Germans at Norfolk who came from Madison county, Wisconsin. Its boundaries were defined and the county established by an act of the legislature approved January 26, 1856; redefined by an act approved March 3, 1873. Gannett in his work on place names states that Madison county was named for President James Madison (1751-1836).

The statement that the county was named Madison at the suggestion of German settlers from Madison county, Wisconsin, after their former home, accords with that of Judge McCallum in his *History of Madison County, Nebraska*, as published on page 5 of the *Weekly Review*, Madison, Nebraska, issued July 7, 1876, and is authoritative. Madison county, Wisconsin, was named for President James Madison.

**Battle Creek.** The Pioneer Town-Site Company laid out this town in 1884. It was named after a near-by stream on which General John M. Thayer in command of the Nebraska volunteer militiamen fought a battle against the Pawnee Indians. According to the late Albert Watkins, historian of the Nebraska State Historical Society, this reputed battle is a myth. The precinct is also called Battle Creek.

**Emerick.** A village in Emerick precinct. It and the precinct were named for John Emerick, a local pioneer. The post office has been discontinued.

**Enola.** This town was named for its founder, T. J. Malone. Mr. Malone's name was spelled backwards, with omission of the *m*, in order to form the name for the town.

**Hope.** This town was named in honor of H. C. Hope, superintendent of telegraph for the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha railroad. It was established in 1894.

**Kalamazoo.** An inland locality in Schoolcraft precinct, doubtless named for Kalamazoo, Michigan. The next precinct south has the name Kalamazoo. The name derives from *negikanamazo*, a word of some Indian language, variously translated as "otter tail, beautiful water, boiling water, or stones like otters."

**Kent Siding.** A station on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad in Valley precinct.

**Madison.** H. M. Barnes and his sons made the first settlement here in the fall of 1868. Madison is usually stated to have been named after the county. It is also authoritatively stated that the town was named by Herman Madison Barnes, son of Frank Barnes, homesteader of the present site. Madison is the county seat of Madison county. The precinct is also named Madison.

**Meadow Grove.** The town of Meadow Grove received its name from a grove that stood in a meadow near the town site.

**Newman Grove.** This town received its name from a beautiful grove of natural timber (cottonwood), of about one hundred and sixty acres in extent, which is situated in the vicinity. The grove belonged to Newman Warren and was known as the Newman Grove.

**Norfolk.** Colonel Mathewson, one of the founders of the city, told the following story concerning the origin of the name Norfolk. When it was time to send a petition to the post office department to have a post office established, the question of a name was brought up for consideration. Finally the name Nor'fork, a contraction of North Fork, was agreed upon, since the town was located on the north fork of the river. The petition was accepted but the post office department respelled the name Norfolk, assuming, un-

doubtedly, that the petitioners had misspelled the name. The office was established in 1867. Gannett's treatise on place names states that Norfolk, Nebraska, was named for Norfolk county, England. The precinct has the name Norfolk.

**South Norfolk.** This junction point on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad is situated a short distance south of Norfolk, in Norfolk precinct, hence the name.

**Tilden.** The name of this town was originally Burnett, in honor of the first superintendent of the Sioux City and Pacific railroad. It was changed to Tilden because of the similarity of Burnett to Bennett in Lancaster county, which caused some confusion in the delivery of the mail. The name Tilden was given the town in honor of Samuel J. Tilden of New York, the lawyer and statesman (1814-1886). The town was surveyed and platted in October, 1880.

**Warnerville.** The post office at Warnerville has been discontinued. The town was named for an early settler, Mr. H. Warner, who operated a store and an elevator for many years. It was originally named Munsonville and was changed to Warnerville when Mr. Warner bought land interests and started in business. The precinct is still known as Warnerville.

## MERRICK COUNTY

Merrick county was named in honor of Elvira Merrick (Mrs. Henry W. De Puy). The county was established and its boundaries defined by an act of the legislature approved November 4, 1858. The bill to establish Merrick county and to locate the county seat at Elvira was introduced by Representative Henry W. De Puy, from Dodge county.

**Archer.** This town was named for Robert T. Archer.

**Central City.** This town is the county seat of Merrick county. The name "Central City" was given the town because it is centrally located in the agricultural region of Nebraska.

**Chapman.** This town was named after a roadmaster of the Union Pacific railroad when the station was established. John Donovan, the local section boss, was the first postmaster, and he named the town after his superior officer. The precinct is also named Chapman.

**Clarks.** The town of Clarks was named in honor of Silas Henry H. Clark (1836-1900), who was for many years the active head of the Union Pacific railroad.

**Elvira.** This town was at one time the county seat of Merrick county. It was established at the same time that the county was established and was named in honor of Mrs. Elvira Merrick De Puy. The county seat was located here by an act of the legislature approved November 4, 1858. The town does not now exist.

**Palmer.** This village is on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, and it is believed that Palmer was named after an official of the Burlington system.

**Silver Creek.** A near-by stream has the descriptive name Silver Creek, hence the name for this village on the Union Pacific railroad. The precinct has the same name.

**Sunrise.** An inland village in Mead precinct. The name is appropriate for a locality having a beautiful sunrise or an unobstructed view to the east.

**Worms.** An inland village in Prairie creek precinct. It was probably named for Worms, Rhein-Hessen, Germany.

### MORRILL COUNTY

Morrill county was named in honor of Charles Henry Morrill, a veteran of the Civil War and regent of the University of Nebraska, 1890-1903. The county was originally a part of Cheyenne county and was set apart and established at the general election held November 3, 1908, and by proclamation of Governor George L. Sheldon, November 12, 1908.

**Angora.** Mr. John King is authority for the statement that the name Angora was given about the year 1900 by the railway officials. Before the coming of the railroad the vicinity was called Antelope Hill. The name comes from Angora, in Anatolia, Asia Minor.

**Atkins.** This is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad. It is named for Col. A. W. Atkins.

**Bayard.** The town of Bayard, in Bayard precinct, was named in 1887 by Millard and Jap Senteny after their former home at Bayard, Iowa.

**Bonner.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Bonner precinct, both probably named for a local resident.

**Bridgeport.** This town is the county seat of Morrill county. It derives its name from the local bridge over the North Platte river, erected by H. T. Clark, the owner, of Omaha, Nebraska, to facilitate stage travel from Sidney, Nebraska, to the Black Hills, South Dakota. Subsequently the town was located near the bridge site.

**Broadwater.** The name was given to this town by Mr. Moeller, president of the Union Pacific railroad, and was so designated in honor of a personal friend of his, named General Broadwater. The precinct has the same name.

**Chimney Rock.** This place is a station on the Union Pacific railroad near the west line of Morrill county. It is so named from a noted and conspicuous landmark called Chimney Rock which is a conical pile of rock with a spire like top, standing between two and three hundred feet high.

**Cleman.** The Cleman post office was named in honor of its first postmaster, John Kleman. It is in Storm Lake precinct.

**Colyer.** This post office was named for Mrs. Nannie J. Colyer, the postmaster. It is located near the southeastern corner of Morrill county in Wier Lisco precinct.

**Goodstreak.** This place is situated near the northwest corner of the county in Good Streak precinct. It is stated that the local pioneer physician and homesteader, Doctor Worth, having found a place where surface fuel was plentiful, reported to his few and widely separated neighbors that he had found a good streak and this odd name has clung to the locality and precinct ever since.

**Guthrie.** This is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Court House precinct. It was named for S. L. Guthrie.

**Lynn.** An inland postoffice in Reilly Hill precinct. It was probably named for a local settler.

**Northport.** Northport derived its name from the fact that it is located on the north side of the North Platte river.

**Redington.** This town, as well as the precinct, was named in honor of the noted Indian fighter, Henry V. Redington. During the seventies and eighties Mr. Redington made this part of the west his headquarters. He made it his special business to protect ranchmen from Indians who were at that time stealing a great many cattle. Mr. Redington is still living. He resides at Sidney, Nebraska.

**Silverthorn.** An inland place in Wier Lisco precinct. The name is probably of local origin.

**Simla.** The original name of this town was Mud Springs, a noted station of the pony express and the overland stage, and the scene of an Indian attack during 1865. Simla was probably named by some representative of the Burlington railway system. It suggests Simla in India.

## NANCE COUNTY

Nance county was originated on February 4, 1879. It was named in honor of Albinus Nance, governor of Nebraska, 1879-1882. The boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved February 13, 1879.

**Belgrade.** This town was named by James Main after Belgrade on the Danube, "because its location on a hill resembled that of the Serbian city."

**Fullerton.** Fullerton was surveyed and platted in 1878. It was named in honor of Randall Fuller who was one of the earliest settlers. Fullerton is the county seat of Nance county. The precinct has the same name.

**Genoa.** This name was given to the town by the Mormons who settled here in 1857. It was named for Genoa, Italy. The precinct has the same name.

**Kent.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad in Council Creek precinct.

**Merchiston.** A station on the Union Pacific railroad in Council Creek precinct.

**Northstar.** An inland village in Loup Ferry precinct. A number of villages in the United States have this name. The name is suggestive of high latitude or a place facing the polar star.

## NEMAHA COUNTY

Nemaha county was named for the Nemaha river. The Otoe Indian name of the river is Nimaha, from *ni*, water; and *maha*, miry; that is miry water river. The boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 7, 1855; redefined January 26, 1856, and November 1, 1858. A neighboring county in Kansas has the same name.

**Aspinwall.** An old settler gave as the reason why the citizens chose the name Aspinwall: "We wanted to have a big name." Aspinwall was the longest and most impressive name that suggested itself to them.

**Auburn.** North Auburn was platted by the Lincoln Land Company in 1869 and was originally named Sheridan. When the Burlington and Missouri railroad was built west from Nemaha to Tecumseh in 1881, it missed by a mile the old inland town of Sheridan and platted a new town which was called Calvert. About a year later the Missouri Pacific railroad was built through Sheridan to Omaha. At this time Church Howe and Charles D. Nixon of Oswego, New York, who owned some land through which

the Missouri Pacific railroad ran, laid out a new town-site joining Sheridan on the east. Mr. Howe and Mr. Nixon, together with the Lincoln Land Company, helped to agitate the county seat removal, and, after they had succeeded in locating the court house half way between Calvert and Sheridan, they decided to incorporate the two towns under one name. Mr. Nixon suggested the name Auburn after Auburn, New York (which was near his former home), and it was adopted by both the post office and the railroads. Auburn is the county seat of Nemaha county.

**Brock.** The station at Brock was named by the railroad officials in honor of a superintendent of the road, also said to be a local resident. Later the post office accepted the name.

**Brownville.** This town was named in honor of Richard Brown (1822-1900), who with B. B. Frazer owned the site and planned and platted the original town in April, 1856. The county seat was located here by an act of the legislature approved March 7, 1855. The town was incorporated March 14, 1855, amended February 9, 1857, and reincorporated February 12, 1864.

**Glen Rock.** This town was surveyed on September 7, 1857. It was named by Irvin Bristol because of its location in a valley near some stone quarries.

**Howe.** The original town was named Bedford and was platted on January 20, 1882. The post office and depot were named after Major Church Howe. Mr. Howe was for several years the American consul at Palermo, Italy, and later at Sheffield, England. His home while in this vicinity was on a farm adjoining the east side of Howe.

**Johnson.** Johnson was named for Julius A. Johnson who owned the land on which the town is located. The site was laid out in 1869.

**Julian.** About thirty-five years ago a post office was established at a farm house a little more than a mile from the present location of the town. This post office was given the name Julian in honor of Julian Bahaud, a rich, bachelor Frenchman who lived in the community and owned several farms near by. Mr. Bahaud was known to all his neighbors as "Old man Julian." When the town was established the post office was moved to its present site but still retained the name. Mr. Bahaud was murdered at his lonely home in June, 1899.

**Nemaha.** The town of Nemaha was named for the Nemaha river. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved January 22, 1856.

**Peru.** The early settlers in this vicinity came from Peru, Illinois, and, when the town was laid out, they gave it the name

of their former home. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved January 13, 1860.

**Saint Deroin.** This town was washed away by the Missouri river in 1911, but it is of interest historically. It was one of the oldest towns in the state, laid out in 1854. Joseph Deroin, an Otoe chief, owned the land on which the town was located and it was named for him. The precinct still retains the name.

### NUCKOLLS COUNTY

Nuckolls county was organized on June 27, 1871. It was named in honor of Stephen F. Nuckolls (1825-1879), a prominent pioneer. The boundaries of the county were defined by an act of the legislature approved January 13, 1860.

**Abdal.** A village on the Missouri Pacific railroad in Highland precinct. The word is Arabic in origin, meaning a good or a religious man.

**Angus.** This town was named for J. B. Angus, a former official of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad.

**Bostwick.** No one seems to know why Bostwick is so named. Probably it was for an official of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad. There is a Bostwick, Georgia. The precinct has the same name.

**Cadams.** The Pioneer Town-Site Company platted this town in 1901. The citizens wished to name the town for C. Adams, a banker of Superior, Nebraska. They decided on the name "C. Adams" which the department at Washington changed to the present form of Cadams.

**Hardy.** The town of Hardy was named for a Burlington official by that name who at that time lived in Massachusetts. The precinct has the same name.

**Lawrence.** Lawrence was named for one of the officials of this division of the Burlington railroad.

**Mount Clare.** This town received its name from two sources. Mount was derived from the fact that the town is located on a ridge between the Blue and the Republican rivers. Clare was taken from the name of the Honorable Captain Clare Adams of Omaha, Nebraska, who was an official in the Land, Loan, and Town-Site Company that promoted this town. The first settler in Mount Clare was a Mr. Connor who came to the vicinity in 1888.

**Nelson.** The site of Nelson was surveyed in the winter of 1873 on land owned by C. Nelson Wheeler of Illinois. The town was named in his honor. It is the county seat of Nuckolls county. The precinct has the same name.

**Nora.** The Nora post office was first established on a farm owned by a Mr. Whiting, and three-fourths of a mile east of the present location of the office. Mr. Whiting was requested to give the office a name. In looking over the post office lists of other states he found a Nora, Illinois, and named the new office after it.

**Oak.** The village of Oak derived its name from the oak tree. In 1856 E. S. Comstock established the first stage station on the Oregon Trail in this county, about two miles east of where the present site of Oak is located. Just back of this station on the Little Blue river was a fine grove of oak trees, and on this account the name Oak was given to the stage station and post office. When the Chicago and Northwestern railroad was built through the settlement it also took the name Oak for the station. A near-by creek is called Oak.

**Ruskin.** The post office at Ruskin was named for the famous English author and art critic, John Ruskin (1819-1900).

**Sedan.** The station here was named by the railroad and has always been known as Sedan. When the post office was established, however, it was named Coy, because there was already a Sedan post office in the northeastern part of Nebraska. The latter office was finally discontinued and Coy post office was renamed Sedan. The name derives from Sedan, Ardennes, France. There is a Sedan in Iowa and in Kansas.

**Smyrna.** A village on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Highland precinct. It was named for Smyrna, a seaport city of Asia Minor.

**Superior.** This town was so named because of the superior quality of the land in the vicinity as compared with other land along the railroad.

## OTOE COUNTY

Otoe county was named after the Otoe tribe of Indians. The boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 2, 1855, and redefined by an act approved January 26, 1856.

**Burr.** Originally named Burr Oak because there was a bur oak grove near the town-site. The name was shortened to Burr because there was a town in Kansas called Burr Oak and this led to confusion of mail.

**Douglas.** When the post office at Douglas was a star route it was called Hendricks after a pioneer who lived in the vicinity. Before the town was platted, a man by the name of Douglas owned the eighty-acre town-site. Later, Simpson McKibbin married a Douglas

girl and bought the eighty acres. When the town was platted, it took the name Douglas from Mrs. McKibbon's maiden name.

**Dunbar.** Originally named Wilson, then Dennison, and shortly after, Dunbar. The last name was given the town in honor of Thomas Dunbar, the oldest resident in the immediate vicinity. The town-site was laid out by the old Midland Pacific railroad. Gannett's treatise on place names states that this town was named for John Dunbar, a large land owner.

**Lorton.** In 1881 the town of Delta was platted on the present town-site of Lorton. Later, the Missouri Pacific railroad passed through the place and refused to use the name Delta, because there was a station by that name in Kansas. The name Cio was then given to the station, but the post office retained the name Delta. This readily caused great confusion, so the post office department and the railroad company asked the citizens to choose one name for both the station and the post office. At that time, 1892, Robert Lorton was in the wholesale grocery business in Nebraska City and often visited the present town of Lorton and sold goods to the merchants. His name was listed among others and finally agreed upon as a suitable name for the town. Mr. Lorton later moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he died in 1921.

**Minersville.** The town of Minersville was so named because of the coal veins found in the bluffs near the town-site. These veins vary from four to eighteen inches in thickness, but are mined very little because they dip down into the bluffs and are not easily worked. According to borings made in the past fifty years, a coal bed underlies all of this section, but it is not of sufficient thickness to be worked profitably.

**Nebraska City.** This town was incorporated on March 2, 1855, amended March 16, 1855, and is one of the oldest in the state; it was reincorporated December 31, 1857. It was named after the state, which in turn had its name from the Indian name for the Platte river. Nebraska City was founded by Stephen F. Nuckolls, for whom Nuckolls county was named. It is the county seat of Otoe county.

**Otoe.** Originally called Berlin. The name was changed to Otoe during the World War in honor of the county. The precinct still retains the name Berlin which name was given with reference to local German settlers.

**Palmyra.** The Reverend Mr. John W. Taggart was the founder of this town which was laid out on his homestead in 1870. His daughter, Mrs. Jeanette Taggart White, named the town after the ancient city of Palmyra, Asia Minor. The precinct is known as

North Palmyra; the precinct south of Palmyra is called South Palmyra.

**Paul.** The land on which Paul is located was owned by Paulinus Kuwitzky. Mr. Kuwitzky wished the town to be named in his honor and suggested Paul as short. This name was accepted by the citizens.

**Syracuse.** The town of Syracuse was named after Syracuse precinct in which it is located. The precinct was named by Mr. George Warner after his former home in Syracuse, New York.

**Talmage.** This town was platted in 1881 by Clark Puffer. Mr. Puffer wrote to Thomas DeWitt Talmage (1832-1902) who was at that time superintendent of the division of the Missouri Pacific railroad and asked permission to name the town in his honor. Mr. Talmage consented on condition that Mr. Puffer should see to the development of a good town. In the early spring of 1882, Mr. Talmage visited the town-site. He later became one of the foremost Presbyterian clergymen in this country.

**Unadilla.** The land on which this town is located was at one time owned by I. N. White. Mr. White named the locality in honor of his former home in Unadilla, New York. Unadilla is an Iroquois Indian word meaning "place of meeting."

**Wyoming.** The original town was located a short distance northeast of the present site and was a freighting point on the Missouri river. The town was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved March 15, 1855, and reincorporated and approved February 13, 1857. During the latter part of the Mormon migration as many as three thousand emigrants wintered in the town. The original founders of the town named the place after Wyoming, Pennsylvania, their former home. The old town-site is now farm land. The name Wyoming derives from a corrupted Delaware Indian word meaning "large plains" or "extensive meadows." The precinct has the same name.

## PAWNEE COUNTY

Pawnee county was named after the Pawnee tribe of Indians. The boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 6, 1855; January 26, 1856; and reapproved January 8, 1862. Counties in Kansas and Oklahoma have the same name for the same reason.

**Armour.** This town was platted by J. M. Cravens some time after 1893. A post office had been previously established in the vicinity and the village took the name of the local post office. It does not seem to be known why the office had this name but it

may have been for the Armour brothers of Chicago, bankers and pork packers.

**Bookwalter.** The town was named in honor of W. J. Bookwalter who formerly owned the land on which it is situated.

**Burchard.** This town was named in honor of a local minister by the name of Burchard.

**Du Bois.** Du Bois was the name of the chief engineer of the first railroad built through this town. He was given the right-of-way by John Mallory and G. W. Miner, who later named the town in his honor.

**Lewiston.** A village on the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific railroad in Turkey Creek precinct. It was probably directly or indirectly named for Lewiston, Maine, though possibly for a local resident.

**Mayberry.** The town was originally located one and a half miles north of the present site. It was named after Charles N. Mayberry, a pioneer of the vicinity. In 1887 the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific railway was built through Pawnee county and the town was located on its present site on the railroad.

**Pawnee City.** The county seat of Pawnee county. The town was supposedly named after the Pawnee Indians (though in the Otoe country) who according to tradition, once camped on Turkey creek near the present site of Pawnee City. The county seat was established by an act of the legislature approved March 6, 1855, and incorporated by an act of the legislature approved November 4, 1858. Many maps give the name as Pawnee, the U. S. postal guide retains the name Pawnee City. The precinct has the name Pawnee City.

**Steinauer.** The town of Steinauer was named in honor of Joseph A. Steinauer who located in the vicinity in September, 1856. Mr. Steinauer was also the first postmaster and held this office from the time it was established in the late fifties until 1893 when he resigned. The precinct has the same name.

**Table Rock.** Table Rock was named after a peculiar, large, flat-topped rock, shaped like a table, which is located on the Nemaha river a short distance east of the village \* It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved January 4, 1860. A station on the Union Pacific railroad in Wyoming has this name for a like reason. The precinct also has the name Table Rock.

**Tate.** A village in Turkey Creek precinct, probably named for a local resident.

\* See Edwards, *History of Richardson County, Nebraska*, pp. 621-622.

**Violet.** This town was originally named Butler in honor of the first state governor of Nebraska, David Butler, who grazed large herds of cattle on the ground that was afterwards laid out into town lots. Later the name of the town was changed to Violet in honor of Governor Butler's only daughter.

### PERKINS COUNTY

Perkins county was named in 1888 in honor of Charles E. Perkins, president of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railway system. The first settlement of the county began in 1885. Local tradition is to the effect that the county was named after Joseph Perkins, a former resident of Grant, Nebraska. Perkins county was formed from Keith county by vote November 8, 1887.

**Brandon.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Lisbon precinct. The name is probably for a railroad man or for Brandon, Ohio.

**Elsie.** This town, in Yankee precinct, was named in honor of Elsie Perkins, a daughter of Charles E. Perkins for whom the county was named. The story of the naming is traditional in the Perkins family. According to a local account the town was named after a daughter of Joseph Perkins who was a merchant of Grant, Nebraska.

**Grant.** The town of Grant, in Liberty precinct, was named in 1887 in honor of President U. S. Grant. It is the county seat of Perkins county.

**Madrid.** The first settler was John McKenzie, now of Highlands, California. He located a bank here and called the embryo city Trail City. Later the site was platted and promoted by the Lincoln Land Co. and renamed Madrid, after Madrid, Spain. The precinct has the same name.

**Pearl.** The name for a former post office and a locality near the southeast corner of Valley precinct, local in origin. A neighboring precinct in Chase county has the same name for the same reason.

**Phebe.** Mrs. Phoebe Jack was the first postmistress for the Phebe post office, and it was named in her honor. Mrs. Jack now resides at Evans, Colorado.

**Venango.** This place is near the west line of Perkins county on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Grace precinct. It was probably named after Venango, a city and county in Pennsylvania. According to Gannett, *The Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States*, Venango is "from the Indian *innungah*, in reference to a figure found on a tree, carved by the Eries."

## PHELPS COUNTY

Phelps county was organized and its boundaries defined by an act approved February 11, 1873, and was named in honor of Captain William Phelps, an early settler in this part of Nebraska, and whose son-in-law, C. J. Dilworth, served a term as attorney general of the state. Mr. Phelps was born in 1808 in New York state and for many years was captain of a steamboat on the Missouri river.

**Atlanta.** This town, in Industry precinct, was organized in 1883. It was probably named after Atlanta, Georgia, or perhaps after Atlanta, Illinois, which was named after the city in Georgia.

**Bertrand.** This town was organized in December, 1885. It was named after an official of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad.

**Funk.** The town of Funk began its history in 1887. It was named in honor of Mr. P. C. Funk, one of the oldest settlers in the county who is at present a resident of the town. Mr. Funk is one of the few Grand Army of the Republic veterans left in this vicinity.

**Haydon.** An inland locality in Anderson precinct. The name is probably local in origin.

**Holcomb.** An inland locality in Center precinct, probably named for a local resident.

**Holdrege.** Holdrege was named in honor of George W. Holdrege, superintendent of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad. The town was established in 1883, just after the railroad was built through the vicinity. It is the county seat of Phelps county.

**Loomis.** This town was named for N. H. Loomis who was associated with the Burlington railroad in the fall of 1885, when the town was organized.

**Sacramento.** This place was probably named after Sacramento, California. The name is from the Spanish language and means sacrament.

**Westmark.** An inland locality in Westmark precinct, probably named for a local settler.

**Williamsburg.** This inland town was formerly the county seat of Phelps county. It was named for William Dilworth, a son of C. J. Dilworth. Mrs. C. J. Dilworth was a daughter of Captain William Phelps for whom Phelps county was named. The precinct is also named Williamsburg.

## PIERCE COUNTY

Pierce county was named for President Franklin Pierce (1804-1869). It was established in 1859. The county was officially established and its boundaries defined by an act approved January 26, 1856.

**Breslau.** This town was probably named for Breslau, a city in Silesia, Prussia. The surrounding country is heavily settled by Germans.

**Foster.** This town was named in honor of George Foster who for a long time was station agent for the railroad and who owned land surrounding this town.

**Hadar.** The name Hadar is taken from the German (*Hader*) and means a misunderstanding or a wordy argument. It was given to the town after the settlement of a dispute between two early settlers with the intention of perpetuating the memory of the dispute.

**Lucas Siding.** A station on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad, northwest of Pierce, in Clover Valley precinct. The name is local in origin, being for a Mr. Lucas, a landowner.

**McLean.** This town is in the northeastern part of Pierce county, in Eastern precinct, on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad. It was probably named after McLean, Ohio.

**Osmond.** This town is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad and was probably named for a railway official. The precinct has the local descriptive name of Plum Grove.

**Pierce.** The town of Pierce, like the county, was named for President Franklin Pierce. The first settlement in the town was made in 1870. Pierce is the county seat of Pierce county. The precinct has the same name.

**Plainview.** This town was platted on October 30, 1880, and was originally named Roseville for Charles Rose, the first postmaster. Later it was thought that this gave too much honor to one man, so a meeting of the settlers was called for the purpose of selecting another name. During the discussion of various names, some one suggested Plainview, saying that not long before he had passed through a pleasant little town in Minnesota of that name. He considered the name appropriate to the Nebraska town on account of the surrounding country. The citizens agreed upon the name and it was adopted. The locality is the first high land after leaving the Elkhorn valley. By analogy the precinct has the locally descriptive name of Dry Creek.

## PLATTE COUNTY

Platte county took its name from the Platte river. Its boundaries were defined and the county established by an act of the legislature approved January 26, 1856. The boundaries were redefined by an act approved December 22, 1859. The Platte river is characteristically flat or shallow, and it takes its name from the French word for flat or shallow, applied to it by early French missionaries or explorers in Nebraska.

**Columbus.** The Columbus Company, made up of a body of men who had lived in Columbus, Ohio, laid out this town-site in the summer of 1856. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved October 2, 1858. Columbus is the county seat of Platte county. The precinct has the same name.

**Cornlea.** The name Cornlea is compounded of *corn* and *lea* and means cornland or the land of corn. The town was laid out on September 30, 1886.

**Creston.** The town of Creston was laid out on August 23, 1886. It was so named because it was located on the top of a hill from which the waters flowed eastward to the Elkhorn river and westward to the Platte river. Towns in Illinois, Iowa, and California have the same name for a like reason.

**Duncan.** This town was laid out on October 24, 1871, and was originally named Jackson. It was probably named for a local resident or for Duncan, Illinois, which was named for James Henry Duncan, congressman from Massachusetts, 1849-1853.

**Humphrey.** Humphrey was laid out and platted on November 25, 1880. Mrs. Leach, the first postmistress of this village, named it after Humphrey, New York, the town from which she came. The precinct has the same name.

**Lindsay.** The town of Lindsay was named by its first settler, John Walker, after Lindsay, Ontario, Canada. It was laid out on November 8, 1886.

**Monroe.** Leander Gerrard of Columbus named the town in commemoration of President James Monroe. Mr. Gerrard and his brother, E. A. Gerrard, founded the town which was laid out in 1889. At that time, he recalled that no town in the United States had been named for President Monroe and on this account Mr. Gerrard named the new town for him. The precinct has the same name.

**Ocone.** This town was first platted on February 5, 1880, and was replatted on May 21, 1883. It was originally named Lost Creek on account of a small stream of water north of the town, which at intervals appeared and disappeared, and at one time over-

flowed the immediate territory. The post office, however, was known as Dorrance, and this caused a great deal of inconvenience because mail was constantly missent to Dorrance, Kansas. When it was decided to change the name of the office, Mr. F. A. Baldwin, now of Omaha, Nebraska, suggested the name Oconee, because it was unlike that of any other post office in Nebraska or the surrounding states. This name was accepted by both the post office department and the railroad. Oconee, Nebraska, was doubtless named for Oconee, Shelby county, Illinois. According to Gannett's treatise on place names Oconee is an Indian word and was the name of an old Creek town. The precinct has the same name.

**Platte Center.** Platte Center is so named because of its central location in Platte county. It was laid out and platted on January 22, 1880.

**Tarnov.** This town was originally called Burrows and was founded and incorporated on November 16, 1889. It was probably named after Tarnow (pronounced Taar'-nov), Galicia. The precinct is still called Burrows.

### POLK COUNTY

Polk county was organized following an election held August 6, 1870. It was named in honor of ex-president of the United States, James K. Polk (1795-1849). Its boundaries were defined and the county established by an act of the legislature approved January 26, 1856.

**Osceola.** This town, in Osceola precinct was named for Osceola, a chief of the Seminole Indian tribe in Florida. It was located temporarily in August, 1870, and permanently October 10, 1871, surveyed and platted in June, 1872. Osceola is the county seat of Polk county. According to Gannett's account of place names the name Osceola "refers to a medicine drink used by the tribe in certain ceremonies."

**Polk.** The town of Polk was named for Polk county. A post office was established here in February, 1907.

**Shelby.** Shelby was laid out by the Union Pacific railroad in 1879, and was at that time called Arcade. The post office department, however, objected to this name because of its similarity to Arcadia in Valley county, Nebraska. The railroad then communicated with the post office department and the name Shelby was given to the town in honor of an official on the Union Pacific railroad.

**Stromsburg.** The town of Stromsburg, in Stromsburg precinct, was located and surveyed in June, 1872. It was named Stromsburg by some of the first Swedish settlers, who purchased the land

for the town-site, after a suburb of Stockholm, Sweden. Another fairly well authenticated account is to the effect that the town was located about 1870 by L. Headstrom from Illinois who moved his family to this place in 1872. He was agent for the Union Pacific Land Company, the first merchant, and the first postmaster at Stromsburg. When the town was organized it was named in honor of L. Headstrom, a leading citizen, by taking the last syllable of his name and adding "burg", that is "Strom's burg".

**Swedehome.** This place is so named because of a large, pioneer settlement of Swedish Lutherans in the vicinity.

### RED WILLOW COUNTY

Red Willow county takes its name from Red Willow creek. This name is a mistranslation of the Dakota Indian name *Chanhshasha Wakpala*, literally, Red Dogwood creek, this shrub being abundant along the stream. The boundaries were defined by an act approved February 27, 1873.

**Banksville.** An inland location in Grant precinct. It was named for Edward Banks who at the time was the popular sheriff of Red Willow county.

**Bartley.** Bartley was organized and platted on July 3, 1886. It was named after the Rev. Allen Bartley, a Methodist Episcopal minister, who homesteaded the land on which Bartley stands. It was the intention to make Bartley a school town and establish a Methodist college. The first story of a building was erected and several terms of school were held, but the needed support did not materialize and the project was abandoned.

**Boxelder.** An inland location in Elder precinct, both so named because of the presence of much box elder timber in the vicinity.

**Danbury.** George Gilbert, the first postmaster of Danbury, came here from Danbury, Connecticut, and named the town after his former home. The neighboring precinct has the same name.

**Indianola.** This town was named by I. Starbuck after Indianola, Iowa, his former home. It was laid out in May, 1873, by the Republican Valley Land Association and located by D. N. Smith who had charge of locating the town-sites for the company. A neighboring precinct has the same name.

**Lebanon.** Lebanon was named after the cedars of Lebanon mentioned in the Bible. A man by the name of Bradbury, who was the first postmaster here, sent three names to the post office department. Of these the name Lebanon was chosen. The precinct has the same name. The village on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad is known as Lebanon Station.

**McCook.** This town was named for Alexander McDowell McCook, major general in the Civil War. General McCook came from an unusual family of which eight brothers and the father all served as officers in the Federal army during the Civil War. The town of McCook was laid out by the Lincoln Land Company in June, 1882, and was originally known as Fairview. It is the county seat of Red Willow county.

**Marion.** This town was named by the Burlington and Missouri railroad officials in honor of Marion Powell. At that time Mr. Powell owned a large track of land and was a heavy operator in the stock and feed business of the town. The town-site was platted and organized in September, 1901.

**Perry.** This place is located in Perry precinct. It and the precinct were named for W. S. Perry, who at the time was superintendent of bridges on the McCook division of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad. When the station or siding was located it was named Campbell after A. Campbell who was then superintendent of the McCook division. Later the name was changed to Perry when another town was located in Franklin county and named Campbell.

**Red Willow.** The post office here has been discontinued but the town was named after Red Willow creek. The post office was located near where the creek empties into the Republican river. The precinct is called Red Willow.

**Shippee.** This place is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad. It was named for Leonard Shippee, a local resident and property owner.

## RICHARDSON COUNTY

Richardson county was temporarily organized by a proclamation of Acting Governor Thomas B. Cuming, dated November 23, 1854, and was organized and its boundaries defined by an act approved March 7, 1855, with the seat of justice located at Archer. Its boundaries were redefined by an act approved January 26, 1856. Richardson county is one of the eight original counties. It was named for William A. Richardson of Illinois, who later became the third territorial Governor of Nebraska, 1858.

Richardson, Monterey county, California, was so named by settlers from Richardson county, Nebraska, in honor of their old home.

**Arago.** This town was founded in 1858 by a colony of Germans from Buffalo, New York. It was named by its German citizens in honor of the noted French astronomer and natural philosopher,

**Dominique Francois Arago** (1786-1853). It was incorporated as a city by an act of the legislature approved January 10, 1860, and was the first town in Richardson county to be so incorporated. Arago was the early metropolis of Richardson county and during the flourishing period of river transportation was an important port on the Missouri river and carried on an extensive commerce. The town gave the name to the precinct. The old town-site is now known as Fargo. The present village of Arago is about five miles west of the old site and the name was transferred with the removal of the post office from the old to the new site. The post office has been discontinued.

**Archer.** This village was the original county seat of Richardson county. It was named for its founder, Robert T. Archer, the first sheriff of the county. The town-site was abandoned in 1857.

**Barada.** This place is situated in Barada precinct and it and the precinct were named after one of the first settlers, Antoine Barada (1807-1887), a French-Omaha Indian half-breed whose wife was a French woman. He named the village after himself. His descendants still live in the vicinity.

**Dawson.** This town is legally named Noraville, but by common usage is called Dawson. It was laid out in 1871 and is called Dawson in honor of Joshua Dawson, an early settler, (and the Dawson family) who built a flour and feed mill in the vicinity in 1868.

**Falls City.** Falls City receives its name from the fact that it is located near the falls in the Great Nemaha river. The town was incorporated in May 17, 1858. The county seat was located temporarily here and permanently by an election pursuant to an act of the legislature approved January 13, 1860. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature and approved on the same date, January 13, 1860. It is the present county seat of Richardson county. The precinct has the same name.

**Fargo.** A one-time village on the Missouri river, in Arago precinct. Apparently so named after the Wells, Fargo Express Company. It is located on the site of old Arago. The post office has been discontinued.

**Humboldt.** O. J. Tinker, the founder of this town, who settled in the vicinity in 1857, named it in honor of the famous German scientist and traveler, Baron Friedrich Heinrich Alexander von Humboldt who was born in Berlin, September 14, 1769. Mr. Tucker was a great admirer of Baron von Humboldt. The town was platted in the spring of 1868. Another account relates that the name was suggested by Edward P. Tinker, a son of O. J. Tinker, who was a member of Company C, Fifth Iowa Cavalry, of the Civil

War. While in the service he spent a few days in Humboldt, Tennessee, and being favorably impressed with the southern city offered the name as a suitable one for his home place. The precinct has the same name.

**Middleburg.** An inland place in Nemaha precinct, on the south Nemaha, so called because of its midway position. It was a little mail station from the pioneer days. The post office has been discontinued.

**Nims.** This is a small inland place in Nemaha precinct. It was named after its founder, Mrs. Betsey U. Nims.

**Preston.** The station at Preston was originally called Bluffton, and the post office Sac, on account of the close proximity of the Sac and Fox Indians. Shortly after the town was platted, James S. Eatough, a storekeeper, suggested that the name of both the station and the office should be changed to Preston, in honor of his former home in England.

**Rulo.** This town was laid out in 1857 on land belonging to the wife of Charles Rouleau. It is for her that the town is named and it should be spelled Rouleau, but the pronunciation led to the modified spelling Rulo. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved November 1, 1858. The precinct has the same name.

**Salem.** This town was named Salem, meaning city of peace, after the biblical name. As the Indians were numerous in the vicinity this name was given hopefully to the town. It was laid out on January 30, 1855, by Justus C. Lincoln (a relative of President Abraham Lincoln) and two other men, Thomas Hare and J. W. Roberts, who established the first post office and store. The county seat was temporarily located here February 9, 1857, permanently on October 3, 1858. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved February 10, 1857. The precinct has the same name.

**Shubert.** The town of Shubert was named in honor of Henry W. Shubert (1834-1909), one of the early settlers of Richardson county, Nebraska.

**Stella.** This town was laid out in November, 1881, and named after Stella Clark, a daughter of J. W. Clark, of Covington, Kentucky, who owned the land on which the town-site is located.

**Straussville.** Gustave Strauss named the plat of this town for himself when it was laid out on his land a few miles north of Falls City on the Missouri Pacific railroad.

**Verdon.** This town was laid out by John A. Hall and his wife Julia, who filed the plat February 22, 1882. The railroad company

suggested the name Verdon and it was approved by Mr. Hall. It is not definitely known just why this name was chosen, but the report is that it was built out of the word *verdure*.

## ROCK COUNTY

Rock county was so named on account of its rocky soil. This county was formed from Brown county by vote November 6, 1888.

**Bassett.** This town was named in honor of J. W. Bassett, a ranchman, who in 1871 took into this part of the country its first herd of cattle, in order to test the quality and fitness of the native grasses for cattle food. Thus he became the founder of one of the most important industries in the state of Nebraska. Bassett is the county seat of Rock county. The precinct has the same name.

**Buell.** An inland locality in Pewaukee precinct, apparently named for a local resident.

**Butka.** Butka was named for its first postmaster, Frank Butka. The town was originally located, about forty years ago, on the Calamus river, eleven miles southwest of its present site. Since then it has been moved three times, each time retaining its original name.

**Cuba.** An inland locality near the Niobrara river in Brinkerhoff precinct. The name is probably for Cuba, Illinois. Many villages in the United States have this name all of which directly or indirectly are named for the island of Cuba.

**Duff.** This post office was given the name Duff by the U. S. post office department at Washington, D. C., probably for a local resident.

**Hammond.** The town of Hammond was named by the United States post office department.

**Horsefoot.** When this post office was established in 1905, Mr. Best, one of the settlers in the vicinity, tried to have a Best post office, but since there was already a post office by that name in the state, he was asked to select another name. He then sent the post office department his cattle brand, which was a horse's foot, and since that time this post office has been called Horsefoot, Nebraska.

**Kirkwood.** An inland locality in Kirkwood precinct, both apparently named for a local settler.

**Malvern.** An inland locality in Kinkaid precinct.

**Mariaville.** The Mariaville post office was named for Harriet Maria Peacock, the infant daughter of Thomas Peacock, in whose home the office was established in the summer of 1882. This child is supposed to have been the first white child in this vicinity on the prairies of Nebraska.

**Newport.** This town was named after Newport bridge, which is built across the Niobrara river about ten or twelve miles north of the town-site. It was so named because it was at that time the town nearest the bridge. The precinct has the same name.

**Perch.** An inland locality and a former post office in Blaine precinct.

**Pony Lake.** Pony Lake post office was named for Pony Lake, a beautiful body of water about one half mile from the present office. The lake was so named because in the early days an Indian boy was thrown and killed on its banks by a wild pony.

**Rock.** This place was named after the county in which it is located. It is in Center precinct.

**Rose.** This name was chosen by Mr. C. A. Davison, the first postmaster, on account of the abundance of wild roses in the vicinity.

**Selden.** An inland post office in Selden precinct. It was so named for W. A. Selden, a pioneer settler and the first postmaster.

**Shebesta.** This post office is now discontinued but it was named in honor of a homesteader, Charles Shebesta.

**Sybrant.** Sybrant post office was named in honor of David O. Sybrant.

**Thurman.** A former inland post office in Thurman precinct, both probably named after a local resident.

## SALINE COUNTY

Saline county was surveyed in 1855 and organized in 1868. The name Saline means *salt* and it was given to the county because of the supposition that somewhere within its boundaries were to be found numerous extensive salt springs or salt deposits. This supposition, however, has proved to be unfounded. Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 6, 1855; reestablished and redefined by an act approved January 26, 1856.

**Crete.** In 1863 Mr. J. C. Bickle owned some land in what is now the southwest part of Crete. He had it platted under the name Blue River City, and the plat was recorded on August 3, 1870. Mr. Bickle lived in a log house north of this plat and kept the post office, which he called Crete post office because he and his wife had come from Crete, Illinois. In the fall of 1870, the South Platte Land Company purchased about a section of land north and east of Blue River City and filed a plat of a town on this land November 26, 1870. The following spring the two towns were consolidated and Mrs. Bickle was given the honor of naming the

new town. She chose Crete, because she came from Crete, Illinois, and had been living at Crete post office for several years. The limits of the town were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 7, 1871. The precinct has the same name.

**DeWitt.** This town was named for a Mr. DeWitt, supposedly a railroad man. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved February 13, 1857. The precinct has the same name. A near-by point on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad is known as DeWitt Junction.

**Dorchester.** The site of Dorchester was selected by the Burlington and Missouri Railroad Company in 1870. It was first platted as DeWitt, but soon afterwards was platted as Dorchester. There are two versions concerning the origin of the name. One is that the town was named for a suburb of Boston, Massachusetts, the home of some of the officials of the railroad. This is probably the correct explanation of the origin of the name. The other version is that Dorchester was named for Dorchester, England, by an English engineer who was surveying for the government. Dorchester, Massachusetts, was named for Dorchester, England. The precinct is also known as Dorchester.

**Friend.** The town of Friend was surveyed in November, 1873, and was named in honor of Charles E. Friend, on whose farm the site is located. Mr. Friend was the first storekeeper and postmaster of the town. The precinct has the same name.

**Plato.** An inland locality in Monroe precinct, probably named for Plato, Illinois. The name derives from the philosopher of ancient Greece.

**Pleasanthill.** A locally descriptive name for an inland village in Pleasant Hill precinct.

**Shestak.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Big Blue precinct. It was named for an early Bohemian emigrant, Vac. Sestak. The word derives from the Bohemian *shestak*, originally *sesták*, a twenty-heller piece of money (from *sest*, six, hence a sixpence) of a pre-war value of about five cents, present value three-fifths of a cent, and is popularly known as a *sesták*.

**Swanton.** Originally named Morris for an old settler in the vicinity. There was, however, another town in the state named Morris, so the name of this town was changed to Swanton, because the site was located on Swan creek, in Swan Creek precinct.

**Tobias.** Tobias Castor (1840-1901) was a very prominent man in Saline county and this town was originally named Castor in his

honor. But on account of the fact that there was a town in Nebraska named Custer, it was thought best to change the name Castor to Tobias, in order to avoid confusion of mail.

**Western.** The town of Western was established in 1872. It was named in honor of Mr. West, a bachelor homesteader, on whose farm a post office was established in 1871.

**Wilber.** The site of Wilber was laid out in 1872 by Professor C. D. Wilber of Illinois, for whom the town was named. The date of founding is usually given as 1873. It is the county seat of Saline county and is in Wilber precinct.

### SARPY COUNTY

Sarpy county was named in honor of Colonel Peter A. Sarpy (1804-1865), a conspicuous figure in early Nebraska history. It was once a part of Douglas county but was separated and organized into a new county by an act approved February 7, 1857.

**Bellevue.** Bellevue is the oldest town in the state of Nebraska. It was organized as a city in 1856 but settlement in the vicinity goes back to a much earlier date. An old tradition accounts for the naming of Bellevue. It is said that in 1805 the famous trapper and fur trader, Manuel de Lisa (1772-1820), the first white settler of Nebraska, came to the spot where the city now stands, and when he saw the beautiful scenery about him, exclaimed, "Belle vue." He then staked out his fur trader's cabin and began the first white settlement in Nebraska. Authentic history shows that Lisa was in the vicinity in 1807 and 1809. Bellevue was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved March 15, 1855, and amended on the same date.

**Chalco.** Chalco is a village on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in the northern part of Sarpy county. There is a town and a lake, both named Chalco, situated twenty-five miles southeast of the city of Mexico. The word chalco is from the Greek *chalkos*, brass (so named from the color), referring to the native mineral or copper ore. Chalcocite is a native copper sulphide, a mineral with a black color and a metallic luster. Chalcopyrite or copper pyrites or yellow copper ore, is a common ore of copper, containing copper, iron, and sulphur. It is probable that the place in Mexico and the one in Nebraska derived their names either directly or indirectly from the presence or supposed presence of native copper ores. Chalco, Nebraska, is the only place so named in the United States.

**Fort Crook.** The village of Fort Crook was named after the military post, Fort Crook, which it adjoins. Fort Crook military

post was named for General George Crook (1828-1890) who fought in the Civil War.

**Gilmore.** This place was named after an official of the Union Pacific railroad.

**Gretna.** Gretna was laid out and platted by the Lincoln Land Company in October, 1887. It was incorporated on July 10, 1889. The name is of Scottish origin, probably for Gretna Green, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

**La Platte.** The original town of La Platte was located about 1855. Because of its proximity to the Platte river, the town was subject to overflows. On this account a new town was platted west of the original site and was named Larimer in honor of its founders. The present town of La Platte was laid out by the Omaha and Southwestern Railroad Company in 1870 and includes a part of the old Larimer site. It was named because of its situation in the Platte River valley.

**Meadow.** The site of this town was originally a meadow and on this account the town was called Meadow.

**Melia.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Forest City precinct. The name is local in origin and for an early resident in the vicinity.

**Papillion.** This town was named after Papillion creek which flows through the town. The name Papillion (*papillon*) is taken from the French language and means butterfly. According to local tradition the early French explorers named the creek Papillion because many butterflies were found along its banks. The town was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved February 13, 1857. It is the county seat of Sarpy county.

**Richfield.** The locality of Richfield was settled about 1890. The town is situated in the heart of one of the richest farming communities in the west and it is from this fact that it received the name Richfield.

**Springfield.** The Missouri Pacific Railroad Company surveyed and platted the town in November, 1881. Mr. J. D. Spearman who owned the land on which the town was platted, named it Springfield because of the abundance of large springs in the vicinity.

## SAUNDERS COUNTY

Saunders county was named for Alvin Saunders, governor of Nebraska territory, 1861-1867. The county was originally named Calhoun but the name was changed by an act of the legislature approved January 8, 1862. The original county was established and

the boundaries defined by an act approved January 26, 1856; and redefined November 3, 1858.

**Ashland.** This town was named by Mr. Argyle after Ashland, the home of his ideal statesman, Henry Clay, near Lexington, Kentucky. It was organized on March 4, 1870.

**Cedar Bluffs.** So named because there is an abrupt bluff in the vicinity on the Platte river where some cedar trees grew. The precinct has the name Cedar for the same reason.

**Ceresco.** Richard Nelson and Hod Andrus named this town after Ceresco, Michigan, from which they came in 1868. Mr. Nelson was the first postmaster at Ceresco, Nebraska. The word *Ceresco* is supposed to derive from *Ceres*, the goddess of corn and harvests, or from the Latin verb *cresco*, "I grow."

**Colon.** The first postmaster here was a man by the name of Taylor who came from Michigan and established the office at an early date. He named this office after Colon, Michigan. At that time the office was about two miles north of its present location. When the town was started the Colon post office was moved on the town-site and its name adopted by the town.

**Ithaca.** The name Ithaca was suggested by the county surveyor of this locality. He was from New York state and was a great admirer of Cornell University at Ithaca, New York. On this account he wished the post office to be named Ithaca. An old settler who still lives in the neighborhood was consulted as to the name of the new post office. He recalled the island of Ithaca in ancient Greece, the fabled home of Ulysses, and agreed with the surveyor to name the new town Ithaca.

**Leshara.** The town of Leshara was named after a Pawnee Indian chief, Pita Lesharu who, with his tribe, lived in this locality in the early days. The translation is *Pita* (man), *Lesharu* (chief). Leshara is in Pohocco precinct.

**Malmo.** The Swedish residents of this town named it after the city and county of Malmo, Sweden.

**Mead.** This town was first named Alvin by the railway company but as there was another Alvin in the state the name was changed to Saunders, after the county, when the post office was established. Later the name was changed to Mead in honor of a railroad official.

**Memphis.** Named after Memphis, Tennessee. Some of the early settlers in the vicinity were from Tennessee. The name derives from the city in ancient Egypt. The Greek word *Memphis* is from the Coptic *Menfe*, a corruption of the Egyptian *Men-nefer*, meaning "good abode" or "pleasant dwelling". *Men-nefer* was the name of

a pyramid in the vicinity of the ancient city and the name later extended to the whole city.

**Morse Bluff.** This town was named for Charles W. Morse of Northbend, Nebraska, who once owned the land on which the site is located. The name Bluff is not at all descriptive of the place, but was merely added to prevent confusion with another Morse on the same railroad line. The precinct is known as Morse Bluffs.

**Plasi.** An inland locality in Elk precinct. The name is apparently of Bohemian origin and is for a local resident. The word derives from the Bohemian *plasi'*, he frightens or scares, verb *plasiti*, to frighten or scare.

**Platte River.** A junction on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad, so named from the near-by Platte river.

**Pohocco.** The name of a locality and a precinct in the north-eastern part of Saunders county. The word derives from *Pahuk*, meaning headland or promontory, the Pawnee Indian name of a prominent hill in the vicinity, on the Platte river, but outside the limits of the precinct. The hill is the location or reference for an important legend of the Pawnee mythology.

**Prague.** When the railroad was built here and the location of the station selected, the residents requested the railroad company to name the station Prague. The surrounding country for miles was settled by Bohemians and they selected the name Prague after the capital of their country. For this reason a near-by precinct is named Bohemia.

**Rescue.** A village on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Chester precinct.

**Sand Creek.** A locally descriptive name for a locality in Douglas precinct.

**Swedeburg.** This town was so named because of the large number of Swedes who settled in the vicinity. It was laid out by the Pioneer Town-Site Company in 1886.

**Touhy.** Named after Patrick Touhy, a local employee for many years of the Union Pacific railway, who advanced from section hand to section foreman and later to higher positions.

**Valparaiso.** The Johnson family who settled in this vicinity in 1866 considered it the "Vale of Paradise" and so named the town Valparaiso. They had first called the place Raccoon Forks, because three creeks joined on the old homestead. Mr. Johnson was the first postmaster here and at that time the post office at Lincoln was not established. The railroad was not yet built and mail was carried on horseback from Fremont.

**Wahoo.** There is some dispute as to the origin of the name Wahoo. One explanation is that it is derived from the "euonymus" or "wahoo," commonly known as the "burning bush," which grows on the banks of Wahoo creek. This shrub was a medicinal plant of the Indians, according to traditional lore. From these facts it is thought that the name came from the wahoo shrub and the home of the "medicine man" of the tribe. Another explanation is that Wahoo comes from "pahoo" which means "not very bluffy," but this is not very probable, judging from the rugged appearance of the country. Gannett's work on place names states that "wahoo" is an Indian word said to mean some species of elm. Wahoo is the county seat of Saunders county. A neighboring precinct has the same name.

**Wann.** A village on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Marble precinct.

**Weston.** This town was named by the officials of the Union Pacific railroad company.

**Woodcliff.** A locally descriptive name for a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, near the Platte river, in Pohocco precinct.

**Yutan.** This village is named for an Otoe chief whose name is variously spelled and variously pronounced, one form being *Ietan*.

### SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY

This county receives its name from a prominent, local bluff known as Scott's Bluff, a noted landmark by the side of the Platte valley. It is situated about three miles southwest and across the North Platte river from the city of Scottsbluff. It is 4662 feet above the sea level and about 800 feet above the North Platte river at its base. It is named for Hiram Scott, an early traveller, who perished at its foot. Scotts Bluff county was formed from Cheyenne county by vote November 6, 1888.

**Bradley.** This station is on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad, near the east line of Scotts Bluff county, in Highland precinct.

**Brockhoff.** Brockhoff is a station on the Union Pacific railroad and was named apparently for a local resident.

**Caldwell.** A post office was established at this place on the overland trail, with William Lancaster as postmaster, about 1871 or 1872 and called "Little Moon." This office was discontinued about 1874. The present post office was established about 1886 and named after an early, local resident.

**Covert.** This station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad is a siding for loading sugar beets. It was probably named for a railroad man.

**Dorrington.** This inland place is in the southwest part of Scotts Bluff county. It was named for F. M. Dorrington, who did some of the early government surveying in western Nebraska.

**Gering.** The town of Gering, in Gering precinct, was named in honor of Martin Gering, a Civil War veteran, banker, and member of the original town-site company formed in 1887. Mr. Gering died about five years ago in Washington, D. C. Martin Gering and Oscar W. Gardner, under the firm name of Gering and Gardner, established the pioneer store of the town. Mr. Gardner was the first postmaster and the first notary public. Gering is the county seat of Scotts Bluff county.

**Haig.** Haig or Haigville is a station on the Union Pacific railroad and was named for Harry Haig, an old friend of John Clay who was a local cow-boy, in the early days, with the Two Bar outfit. Harry Haig is a relative of some of the Haigs who were generals in the English army during the recent war. The post office is called Haigville to distinguish it from Hoag, Gage county, and to prevent confusion of mail.

**Henry.** This town was named in honor of a boy named Henry Nichols who was drowned in the Platte river about a year before the town was started. His father, Yorick Nichols, at one time owned most of the town-site.

**Heyward.** Heyward or Heyward Siding is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad. It was named after Heyward G. Leavitt who was active in establishing the sugar industry in the North Platte valley.

**Hope.** This place is a community center established by Henry Nehne, a Boer, who refused to live under English rule in South Africa. The name, Hope, is expressive of the mental attitude or anticipations of the residents.

**Larissa.** This inland post office is one of the first established in Scotts Bluff county. It was named for a daughter of W. B. Cole, the postmaster.

**McGrew.** This place is a station on the Union Pacific railroad and was named for a promoter of the town-site who was a resident of Omaha.

**Melbeta.** This place is a station on the Union Pacific railroad and a shipping point for sugar beets and for this reason was so named. Melbeta is of German origin and is locally considered to mean "sugar beets."

**Minatare.** Named after the Minnetaree Indians, a tribe of the Siouan stock. It is situated in Tabor precinct which was so named by George W. Fairfield, a local surveyor, after his son-in-law Wian Tabor.

**Mitchell.** In the early days of the Overland or Oregon trail through the Platte valley in this vicinity a fort or stockade was built near the western base of Scotts Bluff by Bruce Hubbard and named by him Fort Fontenelle, after Lucien Fontenelle, one of his partners. Later Lucien Fontenelle was in charge of the fort and he renamed it Fort Mitchell, after his friend David D. Mitchell. Because of Fort Mitchell the pass by Scotts Bluff was called Mitchell Pass, the valley Mitchell valley, the precinct Mitchell precinct, the bridge Mitchell bridge, and the irrigation system Mitchell ditch. When the post office was established for this vicinity it was given the same name, Mitchell.

**Morrill.** This town was named in honor of Charles H. Morrill, originally of New Hampshire and Iowa, who was president of the Lincoln Land Company and at one time owned a great deal of land in the vicinity. Mr. Morrill was for twelve years a regent of the State University of Nebraska. He now lives at Stromsburg, Nebraska. Morrill county was named after him.

**Roubedeau.** A pass in Scotts Bluff county, Nebraska, named for Antoine Roubedeau, a French trader. A river in Delta county, Colorado, is also named for him.

**Scottsbluff.** Scottsbluff is the most imposing of the elevations in the Platte valley. The town is named from the ridge or bluff which in turn took its name from a noted mountaineer, Hiram Scott, whose body was found at the foot of the bluff.\*

**Sedan.** Sedan is an inland place in Tabor precinct. It was formerly a post office on the main route from Gering to Alliance.

**Snell.** This place is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad. It is named for an early, local resident.

**Toohey.** An early name for this station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad was Stewart Siding. It is believed that Toohey was named for a railway official.

**Woodrow.** This inland post office is located in the southern part of Scotts Bluff county. It was established about 1913 or 1914 and named after Woodrow Wilson, then president of the United States, by C. L. Schuler, the postmaster.

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\*See the account of the tragic manner of Scott's death in Edwin Bryant's *What I Saw in California*, 1846, 1847, various editions; also Washington Irving's *The Adventures of Captain Bonneville*.

## SEWARD COUNTY

Seward county was named for William H. Seward (1801-1872), secretary of state during President Lincoln's administration. It was originally named for General Greene of Missouri and was renamed when General Greene joined the Confederacy during the Civil War. The name was changed to Seward by an act of the legislature approved January 3, 1862. The original county was established and its boundaries defined by an act approved January 26, 1856. The boundaries were previously defined by an act approved March 6, 1855.

**Beaver Crossing.** This town was named after a place not far from the town-site where the overland trail from Fort Leavenworth crossed Beaver creek. The town-site was platted by the Pioneer Town-Site Company in 1887. Beaver creek gets its name from the former presence of beaver in the vicinity.

**Bee.** The sixteen precincts in Seward county are lettered alphabetically from A to P, beginning in the northeast corner of the county with the letter A. The town of Bee is in B precinct and is named after it.

**Cordova.** This town was established on the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley railroad, now the Chicago and Northwestern, in the fall of 1887. It was originally named Hunkins in honor of C. W. Hunkins, the first postmaster, but on account of the fact that there was a town by the name of Hoskins in Wayne county, Nebraska, the United States post office department advised a change of name in order to prevent confusion of mail. Mr. Hunkins suggested the name Cordova, after Cordova, Spain, because of its dissimilarity to the name of any other post office in the state. This name was accepted by both the post office department and the railroad.

**Garland.** The name of this town was formerly Germantown. It was changed to Garland during the World War, in honor of Ray Garland, a soldier from the vicinity, who died in France. The former name, Germantown, was given with reference to local German settlers.

**Goehner.** Goehner was named in honor of Mr. John F. Goehner of Seward, Nebraska, a prominent merchant and a member of the legislature. The Pioneer Town-Site Company platted this town in 1887.

**Milford.** Mr. J. L. Davison made the first settlement in this vicinity in the spring of 1864. He built a log house on the site of the present hospital building at Milford (The Pines), and opened a ranch on the steam wagon road. Later he improved a ford on the Blue river and moved a mill from Weeping Water Falls and placed it just above the ford. Thus the name Milford originated.

**Pleasant Dale.** The late J. H. Culver, a captain in the United States army, gave the name Pleasant Dale to the town, because of the beautiful valley, in which it is situated. The town originally stood one mile east and one-half mile north of its present location and was supplied by stage service.

**Seward.** The town of Seward was named after Seward county of which it is the county seat.

**Staplehurst.** In 1873, Ebenezar Jull settled on a piece of land one and one-half miles south of Staplehurst on the banks of Lincoln creek. He, with his wife and children, came here from the little village of Staplehurst, England. Three years later when a post office was established at his home his eldest daughter, May Jull, was postmistress, and she named the office Staplehurst after her old home in England. In 1879 the post office was moved to its present location, but it retained its name.

**Tamora.** This place was surveyed into lots in 1879. Philip G. Tyler, who built the first house in the town, says that J. W. Scott, J. N. Scott, William Riser, and Mr. Chapen each donated ten acres from their quarter sections at the common corner for a free town-site in order to get a depot located. Each donator wanted the town named for him but the town was too small for so many names "so they called it Tamora to suit all," evidently a play on the word tomorrow with the idea if they could not select the name today they would tomorrow, spelling the word as it was frequently pronounced on the frontier. It is also suggested that the name may have been derived from Tamoria, a variant of Tamaroa, the name of a tribe of Indians of Illinois, for whom a village in Perry county, Illinois, was named. Another guess is that the name is for T. A. Mora.

**Utica** When a post office was established in the neighborhood in the home of G. A. Derby, his daughter was appointed postmistress and the name Utica was chosen, this being then the name of the precinct or township in which it was located. Later Dr. Derby laid out the town, and named it Utica after the original post office. The first store building was erected by Thomas Standard; and Miss Derby (now Mrs. Harry Vanderhoof of Seward, Nebraska) resigned her position in his favor. The name was taken from Utica, New York.

## SHERIDAN COUNTY

Sheridan county was named for Philip H. Sheridan (1831-1888), the noted general of the Civil War period. Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved February 25, 1885.

**Adaton.** Named by the cowboys of the vicinity after Mrs. Ada Foster, the first postmaster and the first white woman living in Beaver valley. It is in Beaver precinct.

**Albany.** This town was named after Albany, New York, by W. D. McIntyre who came from New York state. It is in Wounded Knee precinct.

**Antioch.** The name Antioch was given to the town by the family of W. G. Wilson after a town in Iowa [Ohio] from which they had come to Nebraska. The original name of the post office was Reno, but because of confusion of mail with Reno, Nevada, a change was made.

**Bingham.** A village on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Bingham precinct. It was probably named for a local resident or a railroad man or possibly for Bingham, Minnesota. The precinct has the same name.

**Clinton.** This town was named after Clinton, Iowa. It was platted by the Pioneer Town-Site Company in 1894. The precinct has the same name.

**Ellsworth.** A village on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Ellsworth precinct. It was probably named for Ellsworth, Minnesota, or possibly for a local resident or a railroad man.

**Gordon.** This town was named in honor of John Gordon of Sioux City, who with a train of wagons attempted to travel to the Black Hills when the country was still a part of Indian territory and closed to white settlers. He was overtaken about five miles from the present location of this town by a lieutenant in command of a detachment of United States cavalry. Mr. Gordon's oxen were turned loose and his wagons and freight burned. For this offense the lieutenant was later dismissed from the service.

**Grayson.** An inland village in the southern part of Minnetonka precinct. The name is probably local in origin.

**Hay Springs.** This town receives its name from its location in the center of meadow country where the soil is moistened by numerous springs. The precinct has the same name.

**Hilton.** Mrs. Carrie E. Smith, the first postmistress at Hilton, named this town in honor of her nephew, William Hilton Merrill. It is in the northern part of Schill precinct.

**Hunter.** This place is in Hunter precinct. It and the precinct were named after Hunter's ranch which was in the vicinity at a very early date.

**Lakeside.** The town of Lakeside was established as soon as the railroad was built through the vicinity in 1886. It is located beside a large lake, and there are many lakes surrounding it. On this ac-

count the town was given the name Lakeside. The precinct has the same name.

**Long Lake.** Long Lake post office in Sharp precinct, derived its name from a lake about two miles long and one-half mile wide, extending in a straight line. This lake is located in the immediate vicinity of the office.

**Marple.** This post office was originally located in Box Butte county where a skinning station was established about twenty-five years ago. The head of this enterprise was a man by the name of Marple, in whose honor the post office was named. Later the station was discontinued and the office moved into Sheridan county where it continued under its original name. It is the only post office in the United States by the name of Marple.

**Mirage.** Mirage post office in Mirage precinct, was named after the mirage which is often visible in this vicinity. The office here is now discontinued.

**Moomaw.** This place in the northern part of Box Butte precinct, was named after J. P. Moomaw, the first postmaster and a pioneer of the vicinity. The post office has been discontinued.

**Peters.** Named after George S. Peters, the first postmaster. It is in Running Water precinct.

**Rushville.** Rushville, the county seat of Sheridan county, was named after Rush creek which flows near the town. The creek is a dry stream which received its name from the large growth of rushes in the vicinity. This name was given to the creek by one of the first surveyors in the county. It is not recalled whether Rush was the name of the surveyor or not. Gannett's work on place names states that Rushville was so named because of the extensive growth of rushes in the vicinity.

**Schill.** An inland place in Schill precinct, both probably named for a local settler.

**Spade.** The Spade ranch in this vicinity was the first to have the post office, hence the name Spade was given to the town. It is in Spring Lake precinct.

**Strasburger.** This place is in Spring Lake precinct. It was named for John B. Strasburger, the postmaster. The post office has been discontinued.

**Whiteclay.** Whiteclay post office, formerly located about one and one-half miles south of its present location, was named after White Clay creek. It is in the northern part of Sheridan county, in Extension precinct.

## SHERMAN COUNTY

Sherman county was formally organized in the fall of 1873. The county was named in honor of General William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891). The county was officially organized and the boundaries defined by an act approved March 1, 1871.

**Ashton.** John P. Taylor, an old settler in Ashton, named this town after his old home, Ashton, Illinois. The precinct has the same name.

**Austin.** Austin was named for Austin Butts who was a pioneer settler in the vicinity. It is in Clay precinct.

**Hazard.** The name originally selected was Bunnell, but finding this name preempted other names were suggested by those holding conference and were found to be objectionable. A person present remarked that they "would hazard some name"; another replied that "hazard" it would be, so the town was named Hazard. The precinct has the same name.

**Litchfield.** This town was laid out in 1886. It was probably named for Litchfield, Connecticut. It is in Harrison precinct.

**Loup City.** This town was named because of its location in the middle Loup valley. The first settlements in the vicinity were made in 1873. The Loup valley was at one time occupied by the Wolf or Skidi tribe of the Pawnee Indians and received its name from them. The word loup is the French translation of the Pawnee word Skidi, meaning wolf. Loup City is the county seat of Sherman county and is in Loup City precinct.

**Rockville.** Rockville is named for Rock creek which runs along the west side of the town. The creek is so named because of the numerous lime rocks in its bed. The precinct has the same name.

**Schaupps.** This town receives its name from the Schaupps brothers who at one time owned a great deal of land where the town-site is now located. It is in Loup City precinct.

## SIOUX COUNTY

Sioux county was named for the Sioux tribe of Indians. The boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved February 19, 1877, and redefined February 19, 1885.

The word *Sioux* is derived from the Chippewa (Ojibway) name of the tribe *Nadowe-is-iw*, signifying "snake or little snake," which by metaphor means "enemy." The French corruption of this word in *Nadowessieux*, which became shortened to *Sioux*.

**Agate.** James H. Cook named this post office after his ranch (The Agate Springs Ranch) when it was established there in the

early eighties. The Agate Springs Ranch was so named because of the deposits of agate found at this point and because of the springs which flow from some of them.

**Aldine.** Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Brown were the first postmaster and they named the postoffice after a girl friend.

**Andrews.** This town was originally named Hunter but was renamed Andrews because there was another Hunter in the state. It was named Andrews in honor of the man who homesteaded the land on which the town is located. The precinct has the same name. It is also stated that the town was named for Jew Andrews, the locating engineer for the Chicago and Northwestern railway.

**Ashbrook.** The Ashbrook brothers, Link and Harry, owned a ranch in this vicinity at an early date and also had charge of the post office. The town of Ashbrook was named for them.

**Bodarc.** This place is situated in Hat Creek precinct. Grant L. Shumway gives the following account of the origin of this place name: "Bodarc was named by John W. Hunter in a very singular manner. Hunter and C. F. Slingerland were in partnership and ran a store on Hat creek. They wanted a post office and it needed a name. Hunter's little daughter was named Oressa which was suggested as the name of the post office. Down in Texas there is a shrub called *bodarc* and the people of a Texas community were asking for a post office and that it be named Bodarc. In some inexplicable way the department at Washington crossed the names and gave the Texas post office the name of Oressa and the Sioux county post office the name of Bodarc. Bodarc had a newspaper called *The Record*, published by Slingerland, who is now, I believe, on the *Omaha Bee*. Bodarc was a contestant for the county seat when Sioux county was organized." The word *bodarc* is a corruption of the French *bois d'arc*, a thorny shrub or small tree, usually designated as the osage orange, native of Texas, frequently utilized for hedges. A Southern place name derived from the same source is "Bodock."

**Coffee Siding.** A station on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad near the state line, named for Charles F. Coffee, a local cattleman, now president of the First National Bank of Chadron, Nebraska.

**Curly.** An inland post office in Snake Creek precinct, named after the first postmaster, a rancher, at this place.

**Glen.** This town was so named because of its location in a glen.

**Harrison.** This place was first named Bowen for John S. Bowen of Blair, Nebraska. Later the name Harrison was suggested for this post office by the department at Washington. It was named for

President Benjamin Harrison. Harrison is the county seat of Sioux county.

**Kelley.** This office is located in Sheep Creek precinct. It was named after Mattie A. Kelly, the postmistress.

**Malinda.** This place was named for Malinda, a relative of John Wildy at whose home the first post office was located. Malinda is near the southeast corner of Sioux county in Lowell precinct.

**Montrose.** Montrose post office is located on the high banks of Hat creek which are covered with wild roses. It is after these two characteristics that the town of Montrose received its name.

**Mud Springs.** This place is near the center of Lowell precinct. It was named by a ranchman because of the muddy soil always about a spring in the vicinity, which was mostly a seep over a large area of ground.

**Orella.** This town was originally named Harold, then Adelia. It is not known why the town was renamed Orella, after a young lady of the neighborhood whose first name was Orella.

**Story.** The Story post office was named in honor of Solomon R. Story, a Civil War veteran and postmaster of the office.

**Unit.** A former, inland post office in Cottonwood precinct, probably named for a local settler.

## STANTON COUNTY

Stanton county was named in honor of Edwin M. Stanton (1814-1869, American secretary of war, 1862-1867) in 1862, by an act approved January 10, 1862, when its present boundaries were defined. Before that time it was known as IZARD county, named in honor of Mark W. IZARD, territorial governor of Nebraska, 1855-1857. The boundaries were defined by an act approved January 26, 1856, and redefined January 10, 1862.

**Bega.** An inland village in Dewey precinct. The name derives from a river of eastern Hungary.

**Haymow.** An inland locality in Haymow precinct. The name is apparently a locally descriptive one.

**Pilger.** This town was named for Peter Pilger who owned the land on which the town-site was platted. It is in Humbug precinct.

**Stanton.** The town of Stanton was platted by S. L. Halman in 1871. Mr. Halman named the town in honor of his wife whose maiden name was Stanton. The claim is also made that the town was named for Edwin M. Stanton, after whom the county was named. Stanton is the county seat of Stanton county. The precinct has the same name.

## THAYER COUNTY

Thayer county was originally called Jefferson county. It was given its present name in 1870 in honor of General John Milton Thayer, United States senator from Nebraska, 1867-1871, and governor of Nebraska, 1887-1892.

**Alexandria.** This town was located by the Nebraska Land and Town Company in 1871. It was named in honor of S. J. Alexander, secretary of state of Nebraska, 1879-1882.

**Belvidere.** An official named Harbine of the Saint Joseph and Grand Island railroad named this town in accordance with its alphabetical system of naming the stations along that road, probably for Belvidere, Illinois, or New Jersey. The word *belvidere* is a variant of the Italian *belvedere*, meaning "beautiful to see."

**Bruning.** This town was named for Frank Bruning and his three brothers who were early settlers in the vicinity.

**Byron.** The town of Byron was named for the English poet, George Noel Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824).

**Carleton.** Coldrain was the first name given this town. It was changed to Carleton at the request of the owner of the town-site in honor of his son, Carleton. An old maps the name is given as Coleraine.

**Chester.** This town was laid out by the Lincoln Land Company on July 29, 1880.

**Davenport.** Davenport was laid out in 1872 and was named after Davenport, Iowa.

**Deshler.** Mr. John Deshler owned the original site of this town and it was named in his honor.

**Friedensau.** J. J. Kern was the first settler here in 1873. The town was settled by German colonists who gave it the name Friedensau or "the vale of peace."

**Gilead.** This town is named for Gilead precinct in which it is located. The name derives from Mount Gilead, Palestine. Towns of the same name are in Maine, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

**Hebron.** In 1869 Hebron was organized and named by a group of pioneers who identified themselves with the Disciples of Christ. It was named after the ancient city, Hebron of Palestine, mentioned in the Bible. Hebron, Palestine, is located in a picturesque valley and these pioneers took refuge in the beautiful valley of the Little Blue river. Hebron is the county seat of Thayer county.

**Hubbell.** In August, 1880, this town was laid out by the Lincoln Land and Loan Company and named for Hubbell H. Johnson, on whose farm the site is located. Mr. Johnson is the oldest resident of

the town. He has lived in Hubbell for over fifty years and owns a great deal of property in the vicinity.

**Kiowa.** This place is an inland village in Kiowa precinct. It is named for the Kiowa tribe of Indians reported by Lewis and Clark in 1805 as living on the North Platte river.

**Stoddard.** This village is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Stoddard precinct. The name is probably of local or railway origin.

**Williams.** This town is located on land formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lamb and was named after their son William.

### THOMAS COUNTY

Thomas county was named in honor of Major General George H. Thomas (1816-1870) of Civil War fame. The boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 31, 1887.

**Halsey.** This town was named in honor of Halsey Yates of Lincoln, who was a member of the party that surveyed the railroad through the vicinity.

**Natic.** A station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Natic precinct, both named for Natick, Massachusetts. The name derives from the Natic tribe of Indians of Massachusetts. Gannett's work on place names states that the name means "place of hills."

**Norway.** The town of Norway was named by the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad when the road was first built through the town. A post office was established here under the same name in 1906. The precinct has the same name. Presumably the name is due to the presence of Norwegian settlers in the vicinity.

**Seneca.** This village is a station on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in Seneca precinct. The name comes from the Seneca tribe of Indians.

**Thedford.** The Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad named this town at the time when it was laid out and platted. It is the county seat of Thomas county. The precinct has the same name. The name is probably directly or indirectly for Thedford, Ontario, Canada.

### THURSTON COUNTY

Thurston county was named for United States Senator John M. Thurston who assisted in effecting the organization of the county out of territory under the jurisdiction of Dakota, Wayne, and Burt counties. It was originally named Blackbird county in honor of the

first Omaha chief of whom there is definite knowledge. According to Lewis and Clark who visited his grave in 1804, he died in 1800. The Indian name of Chief Blackbird was Wagigasabey [Wazhinga Sabe]. It is also authoritatively stated that the county was originally named Black Bird after the mythological Thunder Bird of the Indians. The boundaries of the county were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 7, 1855.

**Macy.** This post office was originally named Omaha Agency because it is the Agency of the Omaha Indians. It was thought best, however, to change the name because so much mail was being missent to Omaha. In forming the new name, the second syllable of Omaha (-ma-) was taken plus the last syllable of agency (-cy) and the office was called Macy.

**Pender.** Pender, the county seat of Thurston county, was organized on Friday 2, 1886. It was originally two miles south of its present location and was at that time called Athens. The name was changed to Pender in honor of John Pender, an Englishman, who was noted as a cable builder and who was a director of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha railroad. The town was moved to its present location through railroad cooperation.

**Rosalie.** Rosalie was named for Rosalie La Flesche, a daughter of Joseph La Flesche (died 1888), French-Indian chief of the Omaha tribe. Rosalie La Flesche was the wife of Edward Farley of Bancroft and a sister of "Bright Eyes," as she was named by her white husband, Thomas Tibbles.

**Thurston.** The town of Thurston was named for United States Senator John M. Thurston of Nebraska, like the county. This place was formerly called Flourney and the precinct still retains that name.

**Walthill.** James J. Hill, the builder of the Great Northern Railroad, had several sons. One of them, Walter Hill, was sent to this vicinity during the building of the Sioux City and Lincoln branch of the Burlington railroad in which the Hills were interested. Walter Hill became very friendly with a local man by the name of Hutchins and they organized a town-site company together. When the time came for naming this town Mr. Hutchins insisted that it be given the name of his friend, "Walt Hill." Settlement in the new town was begun in the spring of 1906.

**Winnebago.** The town of Winnebago was named for the Winnebago tribe of Indians. Allouez, the French explorer who first intelligently wrote of the tribe, spells the name *Ovenibigoutz*, the Algonquian appellation which, freely translated, means "the disfavored ones." In the Jesuit *Relations* the name occurs as *Ouinibegouc*, *Ouinipegouec*, and *Ouenibegoutz*. This in our spelling has been transformed to Winnebago. The Winnebagoes own name for their people is *Ho-tchan'-ga-ra*.

## VALLEY COUNTY

The first settlement was made in Valley county in April, 1872. The county was established by the legislature of 1873 and was so named because it was composed mostly of valley land, lying between higher table lands. It was created and the boundaries defined by an act approved March 1, 1871.

**Alta.** A former, inland post office in Noble precinct. The name derives from the Latin word *altus*, referring to a high or elevated position.

**Arcadia.** The site of Arcadia was laid out in 1885, and the plat put on record October 3, 1885. It was named by Mrs. Samuel A. Hawthorne who served as the first postmaster and who at one time taught school in the village. She understood the meaning of "Arcadia" to be "the feast of flowers." At that time this valley was filled with beautiful wild roses in bloom, which made the name seem appropriate to her. The town was first called Brownville in honor of Porter Brown who came to the vicinity in April, 1873, and who is considered the real father of the settlement. The name was changed because there was another town of the same name in the state. The precinct has the same name.

**Elyria.** The name Eldon was first given to this town, but since there was another town in the state by that name, it was changed to Elyria. It is not known why the latter name was selected. The precinct has the same name.

**Geranium.** The name of a former, inland post office and a locality in Geranium precinct. The name is floral in origin.

**Lee Park.** This village was laid out in 1884 near the southwest corner of the county on the west county line, a portion being previously laid out over the line in Custer county, the post office was established in Valley county. The name is in honor of James Lee, the first settler, who came here in September, 1874. The local valley is known as Lee's Park and formerly the post office had the same name. A creek in the vicinity is known as Lee's creek. Later the post office was moved over into Custer country and finally discontinued. The nearness of Arcadia brought on decay and eventually the village disappeared but the name clings to the neighborhood.

**Miracreek.** A locally descriptive name for a former inland post office and a locality in Enterprise precinct.

**North Loup.** A post office was established at North Loup in 1872. It was so named because of its location in the valley of the North Loup river.

**Ord.** Ord was surveyed early in the year, 1874, by Haskill brothers, O. S. and O. C., and A. M. Robbins. General E. O. C.

Ord was at that time in command of the military department of the Platte and the town was named for him. Ord is the county seat of Valley county.

### WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington county was named for General George Washington (1732-1799). Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved February 22, 1855, on the anniversary of Washington's birthday, and redefined November 2, 1858. The western boundary was redefined by an act approved January 12, 1860. More than thirty states have thus honored Washington.

**Admah.** This town was named after a Bible town of that name, a place near Sodom. Admah is a Hebrew word meaning fortress.

**Arlington.** This town was originally named Bell Creek after a near-by stream which was named for a family of early settlers on its banks. The name was changed to Arlington in 1882 after a place on the Potomac river in Virginia. The Sioux City and Pacific Railway Company platted the town in 1869.

**Blair.** The history of Blair dates back to 1869 when the town was platted. It was named in honor of John I. Blair (1802-1899), of New Jersey, the great railroad builder and controller of railroad operations, who owned the land on which the town is located. At one time Mr. Blair was president of the Sioux City and Pacific railroad Company. He was well known for his philanthropic work. Blair is the county seat of Washington county.

**Bowen.** This town was named in honor of John S. Bowen, an early settler of Blair, Nebraska. The Pioneer Town-Site Company platted the town in 1886.

**Coffman.** This town was named for Dr. V. H. Coffman who owned the farm on which it is platted.

**Cuming City.** Cuming City was mapped and surveyed in the spring of 1865. It was named in honor of Thomas B. Cuming, acting Governor of Nebraska at that time. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved February 16, 1857.

**Dale.** This town was named in honor of General Samuel Dale of Alabama.

**De Soto.** The town of De Soto is located in De Soto township. The town and township were named in honor of the sixteenth-century Spanish explorer, Hernando De Soto. The town was platted in the autumn of 1854. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved March 7, 1855.

**Fontanelle.** This town was settled by the Quincy, Illinois, colony in 1854. It was named in honor of Logan Fontenelle (1825-1855) interpreter on occasion for the Omaha Indian delegation to Washington in 1854. The township in which it is located was also named for the Indian chief. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature approved March 14, 1855. The name of the town was originally spelled Fontenelle. A creek in Nebraska, a village in Hocking county, Ohio, and a city in Cache county, Utah, were named Logan for Logan Fontenelle. A hotel and a projected natural park in Omaha were named Fontanelle in honor of this man.

**Fort Calhoun.** The original name of this town was Fort Atkinson, named in honor of Brevet Brigadier General Henry Atkinson (died 1842), after whom four posts in different parts of the country were named. Later it was named Fort Calhoun in honor of J. C. Calhoun (1782-1850), secretary of war at the time. The town was incorporated in November 4, 1858, and is located in Fort Calhoun township. Originally the county seat was at Fort Calhoun but was moved to De Soto by act of the legislature approved November 3, 1858. The precinct has the same name.

**Herman.** The town of Herman, located in Herman township, was platted in 1871 by the railroad officials of the old Omaha and Northwestern Railroad Company. It was named in honor of Samuel Herman who held the position of conductor on this railroad for many years.

**Kennard.** This town was platted by the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad Company and was incorporated as a village on April 29, 1895. It was named for Honorable Thomas P. Kennard, first secretary of state for Nebraska, 1867-1870. Mr. Kennard was for many years a prominent citizen in Lincoln.

**Washington.** This town was named for Washington county in which it is located. It was platted by the Pioneer Town-Site Company in 1887.

## WAYNE COUNTY

Wayne county was named for Anthony Wayne (1745-1796), the American revolutionary general. It was organized by a proclamation of Governor David Butler in the fall of 1870. Its boundaries were defined and its organization legalized March 4, 1871.

**Altona.** This village was named after Altona, in Holstein, Germany.

**Apex.** A station on the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha railroad in Hoskins precinct. It was so named because of its elevated position, being on or near the divide.

**Carroll.** E. W. Winter, general manager of the railroad, named this town in honor of Charles Carroll (1737-1832) of Carrollton, Maryland, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

**Hoskins.** When the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha railroad was built, there was a land company of Sioux City that bought farms and established towns. The town of Hoskins was named for a member of this company who lived in Sioux City. The precinct has the same name.

**Sholes.** This town was named for Lyman Sholes, an official on the railroad. It was established in 1902.

**Wayne.** The town of Wayne was named for Wayne county which in turn was named for General Anthony Wayne. Wayne is the county seat of Wayne county.

**Winside.** When the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha railroad was first built, there was a station three miles west and one mile south of the present location of this town. A proposal was made to change the town-site and the person who chose the new site named it Winside, because he considered he had made a winning contest.

## WEBSTER COUNTY

The first settlement in Webster county was made on May 16, 1870, by members of the Rankin Colony of Omaha. The county was named in honor of Daniel Webster, the American statesman (1782-1852). The boundaries were defined by an act approved February 16, 1867.

**Bladen.** The Lincoln Land Company platted this town in June, 1886.

**Bluehill.** The town of Bluehill was surveyed and platted for the railroad company in September, 1878, by Anselmo B. Smith, the town surveyor. It was first called Belmont but as there was another town of the same name in the state the name was changed to Bluehill. It derives its name from being located on the hills of the Blue river. Gannett's work on place names states that the town was "so named because of the bluish atmosphere surrounding the hill on which the village is located."

**Cowles.** This town was named in honor of W. D. Cowles who was general freight agent of the Burlington and Missouri River railroad prior to his death in 1876. The town was platted by Anselmo B. Smith in September, 1878.

**Guide Rock.** The town of Guide Rock was named for a rocky bluff about two and a half miles southeast and across the river from

the town-site. This bluff is made up of rock and earth, the face of which is almost perpendicular. The rock extends upward from the ground from thirty to forty feet and is of a soft, scaly, slaty composition. The earth extends above the rock for about the same distance, making a total of approximately seventy-five feet. At the foot of this formation is the old bed of the Republican river. The rock served as a conspicuous landmark to early western travelers.

**Inavale.** This town was named by a vote of the people, In-a-vale, the vale being the Republican valley. W. J. Vance laid out the town in 1884.

**Red Cloud.** This town was named in honor of Red Cloud, the last warrior chief of the Teton-Sioux Indians. Red Cloud was born near the forks of the Platte river in 1821 and died on December 10, 1909. Local tradition states that he held a war council on what is now the town-site. Captain Silas Garber, afterward Governor Garber, was the first settler, in 1870, and platted the town on November 12, 1872. The town of Red Cloud is in the middle of the Pawnee country and far from Red Cloud's country which came no nearer than the line of the North Platte river. Red Cloud is the county seat of Webster county.

**Rosemont.** The Lincoln Land Company platted this town in June, 1890. Claus Rose, Senior, at one time owned the town-site and the town was named for him.

## WHEELER COUNTY

The county was named in honor of Major Daniel H. Wheeler, long time secretary of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, born November 26, 1834. The boundaries of Wheeler county were defined by an act of the legislature approved February 17, 1877.

**Arden.** An inland village and a former post office near the east line of Wheeler county in Caldwell precinct. The name derives from Arden, an ancient forest of England.

**Bartlett.** This town was named after Ezra Bartlett Mitchell, the founder, in the year 1885 or 1886. It is the county seat of Wheeler county. The precinct is also named Bartlett.

**Cumminsville.** The name Cumminsville was given to this town because the old town-site was built on land homesteaded by Mr. Frank Cummins (or Cummings). Gannett's account of place names gives the name as J. F. Cummings and states that he was county clerk. The present post office is about three miles west of the old site.

**Ericson.** This town was named in honor of Christensen Erickson and his two sons, Eric and Peter. The town-site was home-

steaded and sold to the town by the son, Peter Erickson. The precinct is also named Ericson.

**Francis.** An inland village and a former post office near the northwest corner of Wheeler county in Francis precinct. It and the precinct were probably named for a local resident.

**Headquarters.** An inland place and a former post office in Valley precinct. The name is locally descriptive.

**Lisle.** Lisle is located in Gritty Ridge township. It was named after Lisle, a brother-in-law of the first postmaster, Harry Grout. The post office has been discontinued.

**Newboro.** There was no particular reason for naming this town Newboro, unless that a town or village was expected to develop on the newly located site, hence "new town" or "new boro."

**Pibel.** An inland place and a former post office near the south line of Wheeler county in Keaka precinct. The name is probably for a local resident.

**Sheridan.** An inland village and a post office near the west line of Wheeler county in Buffalo precinct. It was named for General Philip H. Sheridan (1831-1888), of Civil War fame. Formerly the post office was in Garfield county.

**Wheeler.** The original name was Baird, but because there was then another office of the same name in western Nebraska the place was rechristened in honor of Wheeler county in which it is located.

## YORK COUNTY

Two explanations are given for the naming of York county. One is that it was named by Alfred D. Jones for York, England. According to the second explanation a number of early settlers came to the vicinity from York county, Pennsylvania, and named York county, Nebraska, after their former home. Its boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature approved March 13, 1855; reestablished and redefined by an act approved January 26, 1856.

**Arberville.** The Reverend C. S. Harrison, formerly of York, Nebraska, laid out this town. Along each street he planted trees and named the streets after the trees, such as Box Elder street, Cottonwood street, etc. These trees were to form arbors over the streets, hence the name Arberville was given to the town. The farmers' horses and the grasshoppers, however, ate or killed all the trees. This is the only post office in the United States called Arberville. The precinct has the same name.

**Benedict.** This town was named in honor of E. C. Benedict, president of the Kansas City and Omaha railroad. It was incorporated in 1890.

**Bradshaw.** Bradshaw was established in the fall of 1880 on the land owned by O. R. and J. M. Richards. It was named in honor of Mrs. J. M. Richards, whose maiden name was Mary Bradshaw.

**Charlestown.** This town was named for Charles A. McCloud of York, Nebraska, who procured the right-of-way for the railroad. The town was platted by the Pioneer Town-Site Company in 1887.

**Gresham.** This town was named in honor of Walter Quinton Gresham, who was secretary of state in President Grover Cleveland's cabinet. It was platted by the Pioneer Town-Site Company in 1887.

**Henderson.** Named for David Henderson who with his son, John Henderson, Rudolph Fairbank, and Daniel George made the first settlements on the Blue river, July 2, 1866. The town was incorporated on October 4, 1899. Henderson precinct, in which Henderson is located, was also named for this early settler.

**Houston.** This town is named for Joseph D. Houston, an early settler. Mr. Houston came to York county from England in 1870 and took up land in New York township. This town of Houston was located by the Pioneer Town-Site Company in 1881.

**Lushton.** The town of Lushton was surveyed and platted in the spring of 1887. It was named for a railroad official by the name of Lush in the same year when the Saint Joseph and Grand Island railroad was built through the town.

**McCool Junction.** A village on a junction point of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad in McFadden precinct. The name is probably local in origin.

**Thayer.** Named in honor of General John Milton Thayer of Nebraska, who fought in the Civil War, after whom Thayer county was named. The precinct has the same name.

**Waco.** The land on which Waco is located was donated for a town-site by a Miss Chapin who named the place Waco after her former home, Waco, Texas. Miss Chapin is now a resident of England. The precinct has the same name. Waco is the name of one of the divisions of the Tawokoni Indians whose village stood on the site of Waco, Texas.

**York.** The original site of York was surveyed and platted in October, 1896. It is presumed that the town took its name from York county, but nothing very definite is known about this. The town of New York, outside the city limits of York, was incorporated in 1880. It was named by a Mr. Wooley, who owned the land, in honor of the metropolis. This town is now a part of the city of York. Gannett's treatise on place names states that York and York county were named for a resident family. York is the county seat of York county.

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## COUNTIES OF NEBRASKA

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| Boone     | Kimball      |
| Box Butte | Knox         |
| Boyd      | Lancaster    |
| Brown     | Lincoln      |
| Buffalo   | Logan        |
| Burt      | Loup         |
| Butler    | McPherson    |
| Cass      | Madison      |
| Cedar     | Merrick      |
| Chase     | Morrill      |
| Cherry    | Nance        |
| Cheyenne  | Nemaha       |
| Clay      | Nuckolls     |
| Colfax    | Otoe         |
| Cuming    | Pawnee       |
| Custer    | Perkins      |
| Dakota    | Phelps       |
| Dawes     | Pierce       |
| Dawson    | Platte       |
| Deuel     | Polk         |
| Dixon     | Red Willow   |
| Dodge     | Richardson   |
| Douglas   | Rock         |
| Dundy     | Saline       |
| Fillmore  | Sarpy        |
| Franklin  | Saunders     |
| Frontier  | Scotts Bluff |
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| Gage      | Sheridan     |
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| Garfield  | Sioux        |
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| Hall      | Thurston     |
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Brandon, Perkins  
Brayton, Greeley  
Breslau, Pierce  
Brewster, Blaine

Brickton, Adams  
Bridgeport, Morrill  
Brighton, McPherson  
Bristow, Boyd  
Broadwater, Morrill  
Brock, Nemaha  
Brockhoff, Scotts Bluff  
Brocksburg, Keya Paha  
Brodie, Holt  
Broken Bow, Custer  
Brownlee, Cherry  
Brownson, Cheyenne  
Brownville, Nemaha  
Brule, Keith  
Bruning, Thayer  
Bruno, Butler  
Brunswick, Antelope  
Buda, Buffalo  
Buell, Rock  
Buffalo, Dawson  
Burbank, Box Butte  
Burchard, Pawnee  
Burge, Cherry  
Burnett, Antelope  
Burnham, Lancaster  
Burns, Box Butte  
Burr, Otoe  
Burress, Fillmore  
Burton, Keya Paha  
Burwell, Garfield  
Bushnell, Kimball  
Butka, Rock  
Butler, Buffalo  
Butte, Boyd  
Buzzards Roost, Dawson  
Byron, Thayer  
Cadams, Nuckolls  
Calf Creek, Cherry  
Cairo, Hall  
Calamus, Loup  
Caldwell, Scotts Bluff  
Callaway, Custer  
Calvert, Dundy  
Cambridge, Furnas  
Campbell, Franklin  
Capwell, Cherry  
Carleton, Thayer  
Carlisle, Fillmore  
Carman, Arthur  
Carns, Keya Paha  
Carpenter, Box Butte  
Carroll, Wayne  
Carter, Harlan  
Cascade, Cherry  
Cashswan, Cherry  
Catalpa, Holt  
Cedar Bluffs, Saunders

Cedar Creek, Cass  
Cedar Rapids, Boone  
Celia, Holt  
Center, Knox  
Centerpoint, Frontier  
Central City, Merrick  
Ceresco, Saunders  
Ceryl, Gosper  
Chadron, Dawes  
Chalco, Sarpy  
Chambers, Holt  
Champion, Chase  
Chandler, McPherson  
Chapman, Merrick  
Chappell, Deuel  
Charleston, York  
Chase, Chase  
Chelsea, Holt  
Cherry, Cherry  
Chester, Thayer  
Chesterfield, Cherry  
Cheney, Lancaster  
Chimney Rock, Cheyenne  
Clara, Cheyenne  
Clarks, Merrick  
Clarkson, Colfax  
Clatonia, Gage  
Clay Center, Clay  
Clearwater, Antelope  
Cleman, Morrill  
Cleveland, Holt  
Climax, Custer  
Clinton, Sheridan  
Coatesfield, Howard  
Cobb, Lancaster  
Cody, Cherry  
Coffee Siding, Sioux  
Coffman, Washington  
Colebank, Frontier  
Coleridge, Cedar  
College View, Lancaster  
Collins, Arthur  
Colon, Saunders  
Colton, Cheyenne  
Columbus, Platte  
Colyer, Morrill  
Comstock, Custer  
Concord, Dixon  
Cook, Johnson  
Cooper, Blaine  
Copenhagen, Antelope  
Cordova, Seward  
Cornell, Hitchcock  
Cornlea, Platte  
Cortland, Gage  
Covert, Scotts Bluff  
Covington, Dakota

Cowles, Webster  
Cozad, Dawson  
Crab Orchard, Johnson  
Craig, Burt  
Crawford, Dawes  
Creighton, Knox  
Creston, Platte  
Crete, Saline  
Crofton, Knox  
Crookston, Cherry  
Cropsey, Gage  
Crossbar, Kimball  
Crowell, Dodge  
Cuba, Rock  
Culbertson, Hitchcock  
Cullinan, Arthur  
Cuming, Cuming  
Cuming City, Washington  
Cumminsville, Wheeler  
Cumro, Custer  
Curlew, Cherry  
Curly, Sioux  
Curtis, Frontier  
Cushing, Howard  
Cushman, Lancaster  
Dakota City, Dakota  
Dale, Custer  
Dale, Washington  
Dalton, Cheyenne  
Danbury, Red Willow  
Dannebrog, Howard  
Darr, Dawson  
Davenport, Thayer  
Davey, Lancaster  
David City, Butler  
Dawson, Richardson  
Day, Deuel  
Daykin, Jefferson  
Decatur, Burt  
Deloit, Holt  
Denman, Buffalo  
Denmark, Lincoln  
Denton, Lancaster  
Deshler, Thayer  
De Soto, Washington  
Deverre, Garfield  
Deweese, Clay  
De Witt, Saline  
Dexter, Lincoln  
Dickens, Lincoln  
Diller, Jefferson  
Dix, Kimball  
Dixon, Dixon  
Dodge, Dodge  
Dodge, Douglas  
Donald, Hooker  
Doniphan, Hall

Dorchester, Saline  
Dorrington, Scotts Bluff  
Dorsey, Holt  
Doss, Dawson  
Doty, Holt  
Douglas, Otoe  
Du Bois, Pawnee  
Duff, Rock  
Duluth, Grant  
Dumas, Garfield  
Dunbar, Otoe  
Duncan, Platte  
Dunlap, Dawes  
Dunning, Blaine  
Dunwell, Hooker  
Dustin, Holt  
Dwight, Butler  
Dye, Cheyenne  
Eagle, Cass  
Earl, Frontier  
Echo, Lincoln  
Eclipse, Hooker  
Eclipse, Keya Paha  
Eddyville, Dawson  
Edgar, Clay  
Edison, Furnas  
Edith, Blaine  
Elba, Howard  
Eldorado, Clay  
Elgin, Antelope  
Eli, Cherry  
Elizabeth, Cherry  
Elk City, Douglas  
Elk Creek, Johnson  
Elkhorn, Douglas  
Ellis, Gage  
Ellsworth, Sheridan  
Elm Creek, Buffalo  
Elmwood, Cass  
Elsie, Perkins  
Elsmere, Cherry  
Elton, Custer  
Elva, Grant  
Elvira, Merrick  
Elwood, Gosper  
Elyria, Valley  
Emerald, Lancaster  
Emerick, Madison  
Emerson, Dixon  
Emmet, Holt  
Emporia, Holt  
Enders, Chase  
Enders Lake, Brown  
Endicott, Jefferson  
Enlow, Cherry  
Enola, Madison  
Enterprise, Keya Paha

Epworth, Banner  
Ericson, Wheeler  
Erik, Cherry  
Erina, Garfield  
Ethel, Cherry  
Esther, Dawes  
Etna, Custer  
Eustis, Frontier  
Everett, Dodge  
Ewing, Holt  
Exeter, Fillmore  
Fairbury, Jefferson  
Fairfield, Clay  
Fairmont, Fillmore  
Falls City, Richardson  
Fargo, Richardson  
Farnam, Dawson  
Farwell, Howard  
Ferguson, Loup  
Fern, Cherry  
Filley, Gage  
Firth, Lancaster  
Flats, McPherson  
Florence, Douglas  
Flowerfield, Banner  
Fontanelle, Washington  
Ford, Logan  
Fordyce, Cedar  
Forks, McPherson  
Fort Calhoun, Washington  
Fort Crook, Sarpy  
Fort Robinson, Dawes  
Foster, Pierce  
Francis, Wheeler  
Franklin, Franklin  
Freedom, Frontier  
Freeman, Gage  
Freeport, Banner  
Fremont, Dodge  
Frenchtown, Antelope  
Friedensau, Thayer  
Friend, Saline  
Froid, Deuel  
Fullerton, Nance  
Funk, Phelps  
Gables, Garfield  
Gandy, Logan  
Gannett, Lincoln  
Garfield, Lincoln  
Garland, Seward  
Garrison, Butler  
Gary, Banner  
Gates, Custer  
Gem, Logan  
Geneva, Fillmore  
Genoa, Nance  
Geranium, Valley

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Gering, Scotts Bluff    | Hartington, Cedar     |
| Germanville, Cumming    | Hartman, Garden       |
| Gibbon, Buffalo         | Harvard, Clay         |
| Gifford, Kimball        | Hashman, Box Butte    |
| Gilaspie, Cherry        | Hastings, Adams       |
| Gilead, Thayer          | Havana, Frontier      |
| Giles, Brown            | Havelock, Lancaster   |
| Gilmore, Sarpy          | Haydon, Phelps        |
| Giltner, Hamilton       | Hayes Center, Hayes   |
| Girard, Box Butte       | Haymow, Stanton       |
| Gladstone, Jefferson    | Hay Point, Holt       |
| Glen, Sioux             | Hay Springs, Sheridan |
| Glenalpine, Antelope    | Hazard, Sherman       |
| Glen Rock, Nemaha       | Headquarters, Wheeler |
| Glenvil, Clay           | Heartwell, Kearney    |
| Glenwood Park, Buffalo  | Heath, Banner         |
| Goehner, Seward         | Hebron, Thayer        |
| Golden Spring, Burt     | Hecla, Hooker         |
| Goodstreak, Morrill     | Helvey, Jefferson     |
| Goodwin, Dakota         | Hemingford, Box Butte |
| Gordon, Sheridan        | Henderson, York       |
| Gosper, Gosper          | Hendley, Furnas       |
| Gothenburg, Dawson      | Henry, Cheyenne       |
| Gracie, Loup            | Henry, Scotts Bluff   |
| Graf, Johnson           | Hermann, Washington   |
| Grafton, Fillmore       | Herndon, Cheyenne     |
| Grand Island, Hall      | Hershey, Lincoln      |
| Grand Rapids, Holt      | Heyward, Scotts Bluff |
| Grandview, Gage         | Hiawatha, Dundy       |
| Grant, Perkins          | Hickman, Lancaster    |
| Gravel Pit, Holt        | Higgins, Cheyenne     |
| Grayson, Sheridan       | Hildreth, Franklin    |
| Greeley Center, Greeley | Hillside, Arthur      |
| Greenvalley, Holt       | Hilton, Sheridan      |
| Greenwood, Cass         | Hindrey, Lincoln      |
| Gresham, York           | Hire, Cherry          |
| Gretna, Sarpy           | Hoag, Gage            |
| Gross, Boyd             | Hoagland, Logan       |
| Guide Rock, Webster     | Hodges, Kimball       |
| Guthrie, Morrill        | Holbrook, Furnas      |
| Hadar, Pierce           | Holcomb, Phelps       |
| Haig, Scotts Bluff      | Holdrege, Phelps      |
| Haigler, Dundy          | Holland, Lancaster    |
| Hainesville, Holt       | Hollinger, Furnas     |
| Hallam, Lancaster       | Holmesville, Gage     |
| Halsey, Thomas          | Holstein, Adams       |
| Hamlet, Hayes           | Homer, Dakota         |
| Hammond, Rock           | Homestead, Greeley    |
| Hampton, Hamilton       | Hooper, Dodge         |
| Hanover, Gage           | Hope, Madison         |
| Hansen, Adams           | Hope, Scotts Bluff    |
| Harbine, Jefferson      | Horace, Greeley       |
| Hardy, Nuckolls         | Hord Siding, Antelope |
| Harmony, Cherry         | Hordville, Hamilton   |
| Harold, Holt            | Horsefoot, Rock       |
| Harrisburg, Banner      | Hoskins, Wayne        |
| Harrison, Sioux         | Hough, Dawes          |

Houston, York  
Howe, Nemaha  
Howell, Colfax  
Hubbard, Dakota  
Hubbell, Thayer  
Huffman, Brown  
Hull, Banner  
Humboldt, Richardson  
Humphrey, Platte  
Hunt, Frontier  
Hunter, Sheridan  
Huntley, Harlan  
Hutchinson, Garden  
Huxley, Custer  
Hyannis, Grant  
Ickes, Cheyenne  
Ida, Dawes  
Ihno, Dodge  
Imperial, Chase  
Inavale, Webster  
Indianola, Red Willow  
Inez, Holt  
Ingham, Lincoln  
Ingleside, Adams  
Inglis, Holt  
Inland, Clay  
Inman, Holt  
Ionia, Dixon  
Irvington, Douglas  
Irwin, Cherry  
Ithaca, Saunders  
Jackson, Dakota  
Jamaica, Lancaster  
Jamison, Keya Paha  
Jansen, Jefferson  
Jelen, Knox  
Jessup, Antelope  
Johnson, Nemaha  
Johnstown, Brown  
Josie, Holt  
Josselyn, Dawson  
Joy, Holt  
Julian, Nemaha  
Juniata, Adams  
Kalamazoo, Madison  
Kauffman, Kimball  
Kearney, Buffalo  
Keene, Kearney  
Kelly, Sioux  
Kelso, Hooker  
Kenesaw, Adams  
Kennard, Washington  
Kennedy, Cherry  
Kent, Nance  
Kent Siding, Madison  
Kesterson, Jefferson  
Keystone, Keith

Kilgore, Cherry  
Kimball, Kimball  
King, Cherry  
Kinney, Gage  
Kinneyville, Cherry  
Kiowa, Thayer  
Kirk, Banner  
Kirkwood, Rock  
Kirsch, Logan  
Knoxville, Knox  
Kola, Holt  
Kowanda, Garden  
Kramer, Lancaster  
Kridner, Gage  
Lackey, Cherry  
Lake, Cherry  
Lakeland, Brown  
Lakeside, Sheridan  
Lamar, Chase  
Lancaster, Lancaster  
Lane, Douglas  
Lanham, Gage  
La Platte, Sarpy  
Larissa, Scotts Bluff  
Laura, Holt  
Laurel, Cedar  
Lavaca, Cherry  
Lavinia, Holt  
Lawrence, Nuckolls  
Leafdale, Cheyenne  
Leavitt, Dodge  
Lebanon, Red Willow  
Le Blanc, Knox  
Lee Park, Valley  
Leigh, Colfax  
Lemley, McPherson  
Lemoyne, Keith  
Lena, Arthur  
Leonie, Holt  
Leshara, Saunders  
Letan, Box Butte  
Lewanna, Cherry  
Lewellen, Garden  
Lewiston, Pawnee  
Lexington, Dawson  
Liberty, Gage  
Lilac, McPherson  
Lillian, Custer  
Limegrove, Dixon  
Lincoln, Lancaster  
Lindsay, Platte  
Linwood, Butler  
Lisco, Garden  
Lisle, Wheeler  
Litchfield, Sherman  
Little, Holt  
Lodgepole, Cheyenne

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Lodi, Custer          | Mascot, Harlan         |
| Logan, Logan          | Maskell, Dixon         |
| Loma, Butler          | Mason City, Custer     |
| Lomax, Custer         | Max, Dundy             |
| Long Lake, Sheridan   | Maxwell, Lincoln       |
| Long Pine, Brown      | Mayberry, Pawnee       |
| Loomis, Phelps        | Mayflower, McPherson   |
| Loraine, Banner       | Maywood, Frontier      |
| Lorenzo, Cheyenne     | Mead, Saunders         |
| Loretto, Boone        | Meadow, Sarpy          |
| Lorton, Otoe          | Meadow Grove, Madison  |
| Louisville, Cass      | Meadville, Keya Paha   |
| Loup City, Sherman    | Meek, Holt             |
| Lowell, Kearney       | Meeker, Hitchcock      |
| Lucas Siding, Pierce  | Melbeta, Scotts Bluff  |
| Luce, Buffalo         | Melia, Sarpy           |
| Lucerne, Holt         | Memphis, Saunders      |
| Lucky Valley, Grant   | Mercer, Douglas        |
| Lucy, Blaine          | Merchiston, Nance      |
| Lund, Cherry          | Meridian, Jefferson    |
| Lushton, York         | Merna, Custer          |
| Lutherville, Garden   | Merriman, Cherry       |
| Lynch, Boyd           | Middlebranch, Holt     |
| Lynn, Morrill         | Middleburg, Richardson |
| Lyons, Burt           | Middle Prong, Cherry   |
| McCook, Red Willow    | Midvale, Brown         |
| McCool Junction, York | Milburn, Custer        |
| McGrew, Scotts Bluff  | Milford, Seward        |
| McLean, Pierce        | Millard, Douglas       |
| Macon, Franklin       | Milldale, Custer       |
| Macy, Thurston        | Miller, Buffalo        |
| Madison, Madison      | Millerboro, Knox       |
| Madrid, Perkins       | Millerton, Butler      |
| Magnet, Cedar         | Milligan, Fillmore     |
| Majors, Buffalo       | Mills, Keya Paha       |
| Malcolm, Lancaster    | Minatare, Scotts Bluff |
| Malinda, Sioux        | Minden, Kearney        |
| Malmo, Saunders       | Mineola, Holt          |
| Malvern, Rock         | Minersville, Otoe      |
| Manchester, Dawes     | Miracreek, Valley      |
| Mankato, Boyd         | Mirage, Sheridan       |
| Manley, Cass          | Mitchell, Scotts Bluff |
| Maple Grove, Holt     | Moffitt, Garden        |
| Mapleville, Dodge     | Monowi, Boyd           |
| Marengo, Hayes        | Monroe, Platte         |
| Margate, Cheyenne     | Monterey, Cuming       |
| Mariaville, Rock      | Montrose, Sioux        |
| Marion, Red Willow    | Moomaw, Sheridan       |
| Marlbank, Keya Paha   | Moore, Hooker          |
| Marple, Sheridan      | Moorefield, Frontier   |
| Marquette, Hamilton   | Morrill, Scotts Bluff  |
| Marsland, Dawes       | Morse Bluff, Saunders  |
| Martel, Lancaster     | Moulton, Loup          |
| Martha, Holt          | Mount Clare, Nuckolls  |
| Martindale, Cherry    | Mud Springs, Sioux     |
| Martinsburg, Dixon    | Mullen, Hooker         |
| Mary, Brown           | Mumper, Garden         |

Murdock, Cass  
Murray, Cass  
Mynard, Cass  
Myrtle, Lincoln  
Nacora, Dakota  
Nantasket, Buffalo  
Naper, Boyd  
Naponee, Franklin  
Natic, Thomas  
Nebraska City, Otoe  
Nehawka, Cass  
Neligh, Antelope  
Nelson, Nuckolls  
Nemaha, Nemaha  
Nenzel, Cherry  
Nesbit, McPherson  
Newark, Kearney  
Newboro, Wheeler  
Newcastle, Dixon  
Newman Grove, Madison  
Newport, Rock  
Newton, Cherry  
Ney, McPherson  
Nichols, Lincoln  
Nickerson, Dodge  
Nims, Richardson  
Niobrara, Knox  
Nonpareil, Box Butte  
Nora, Nuckolls  
Norden, Keya Paha  
Norfolk, Madison  
Normal, Lancaster  
Norman, Kearney  
Norris, Hayes  
North Bend, Dodge  
North Loup, Valley  
North Platte, Lincoln  
Northport, Morrill  
Northstar, Nance  
Norway, Thomas  
Nye, Box Butte  
Nysted, Howard  
Oak, Nuckolls  
Oakdale, Antelope  
Oakland, Burt  
Oasis, Cherry  
Obert, Cedar  
Ocone, Platte  
Oconto, Custer  
Octavia, Butler  
Odell, Gage  
Odessa, Buffalo  
O'Fallons, Lincoln  
Ogallala, Keith  
Ohiowa, Fillmore  
Oliver, Kimball  
Omaha, Douglas

Omega, McPherson  
O'Neill, Holt  
Ong, Clay  
Opportunity, Holt  
Optic, Buffalo  
Orafino, Frontier  
Orchard, Antelope  
Ord, Valley  
Orella, Sioux  
Oren, Keith  
Orlando, Garden  
Orleans, Harlan  
Ortello, Custer  
Orville City, Hamilton  
Osborn, Frontier  
Osceola, Polk  
Oshkosh, Garden  
Osmond, Pierce  
Otoe, Otoe  
Overton, Dawson  
Ovitt, Loup  
Owasco, Kimball  
Oxford, Furnas  
Oxford Junction, Harlan  
Paddock, Holt  
Page, Holt  
Palisade, Hitchcock  
Palmer, Merrick  
Palmyra, Otoe  
Panama, Lancaster  
Papillion, Sarpy  
Parker, Kimball  
Parks, Dundy  
Parnell, Greeley  
Paul, Otoe  
Pauline, Adams  
Pawlet, Garden  
Pawnee City, Pawnee  
Paxton, Keith  
Peak, Burt  
Peake, Buffalo  
Pearl, Perkins  
Pecks Grove, Lancaster  
Pella, Lancaster  
Pender, Thurston  
Perch, Rock  
Perdu, Deuel  
Perry, Red Willow  
Peru, Nemaha  
Peters, Sheridan  
Petersburg, Boone  
Phebe, Perkins  
Phillips, Hamilton  
Phoenix, Holt  
Pibel, Wheeler  
Pickrell, Gage  
Pierce, Pierce

Pike, Brown  
Pilger, Stanton  
Pinecamp, Keya Paha  
Pine Ridge, Dawes  
Pishelville, Knox  
Plainview, Pierce  
Plasi, Saunders  
Plato, Saline  
Platte Center, Platte  
Platte River, Saunders  
Plattsmouth, Cass  
Pleasant Dale, Seward  
Pleasanthill, Saline  
Pleasanton, Buffalo  
Pleasant Valley, Dodge  
Plymouth, Jefferson  
Poe, Hitchcock  
Pohocco, Saunders  
Polk, Polk  
Ponca, Dixon  
Ponylake, Rock  
Poole, Buffalo  
Potter, Cheyenne  
Powell, Jefferson  
Prague, Saunders  
Praha, Colfax  
Prairie Home, Lancaster  
Prentice, Cherry  
Preston, Richardson  
Primrose, Boone  
Princeton, Lancaster  
Prosser, Adams  
Pullman, Cherry  
Purdum, Blaine  
Quick, Frontier  
Rackett, Garden  
Rain, Hayes  
Ralston, Douglas  
Ralton, Deuel  
Randolph, Cedar  
Raven, Brown  
Ravenna, Buffalo  
Rawhide, Dodge  
Ray, Holt  
Raymond, Lancaster  
Read, Arthur  
Redbird, Holt  
Red Cloud, Webster  
Redington, Morrill  
Red Willow, Red Willow  
Reeves, Cherry  
Reidsville, Knox  
Republican City, Harlan  
Rescue, Saunders  
Reynolds, Jefferson  
Rice, Arthur  
Richfield, Sarpy

Richland, Colfax  
Ridgeley, Dodge  
Riege, Cherry  
Ringgold, McPherson  
Rising City, Butler  
Rita Park, Cherry  
Riverdale, Buffalo  
Riverton, Franklin  
Riverview, Keya Paha  
Robert, Hayes  
Roca, Lancaster  
Rock, Rock  
Rockbluff, Cass  
Rockford, Gage  
Rockville, Sherman  
Rogers, Colfax  
Rokeby, Lancaster  
Rolf, Cherry  
Rosalie, Thurston  
Roscoe, Keith  
Rose, Rock  
Rosedale, Boyd  
Roseland, Adams  
Rosemont, Webster  
Rosevale, Garfield  
Roubedeau, Scotts Bluff  
Roxby, Cherry  
Royal, Antelope  
Rulo, Richardson  
Rupert, Hitchcock  
Rushville, Sheridan  
Ruskin, Nuckolls  
Sacramento, Phelps  
Saint Ann, Frontier  
Saint Clair, Antelope  
Saint Deroin, Nemaha  
Saint Edward, Boone  
Saint Helena, Cedar  
Saint James, Cedar  
Saint Libory, Howard  
Saint Mary, Johnson  
Saint Michael, Buffalo  
Saint Paul, Howard  
Saint Peter, Cedar  
Salem, Richardson  
Saltillo, Lancaster  
Sanborn, Dundy  
Sand Creek, Saunders  
Santee, Knox  
Saratoga, Holt  
Sarben, Keith  
Sargent, Custer  
Saronville, Clay  
Sarpy, Douglas  
Sartoria, Buffalo  
Sawyer, Fillmore  
Schaupps, Sherman

Schauppsville, Hall  
Scheding, Blaine  
Schickley, Fillmore  
Schill, Sheridan  
Schuyler, Colfax  
Scotia, Greeley  
Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff  
Scottville, Holt  
Scribner, Dodge  
Sedan, Nuckolls  
Sedan, Scotts Bluff  
Selden, Rock  
Seneca, Thomas  
Seward, Seward  
Sextorp, Cheyenne  
Seymour, Douglas  
Shebesta, Rock  
Shelby, Polk  
Shelton, Buffalo  
Sheridan, Garfield  
Sheridan, Wheeler  
Shestak, Saline  
Shippee, Red Willow  
Sholes, Wayne  
Shubert, Richardson  
Sidney, Cheyenne  
Silver Creek, Merrick  
Silverthorn, Morrill  
Simeon, Cherry  
Simla, Morrill  
Simonds, Dawson  
Simpson, Keya Paha  
Sioux, Dakota  
Smeed, Kimball  
Smithfield, Gosper  
Smyrna, Nuckolls  
Snell, Scotts Bluff  
Snyder, Dodge  
Somerset, Lincoln  
Soudan, Cherry  
South Bend, Cass  
South Norfolk, Madison  
Spade, Sheridan  
Spalding, Greeley  
Spannuth, Lincoln  
Sparks, Cherry  
Sparta, Knox  
Spear, Lincoln  
Spencer, Boyd  
Spencer, Hall  
Spragg, Brown  
Sprague, Lancaster  
Springfield, Sarpy  
Springranch, Clay  
Springview, Keya Paha  
Stafford, Holt  
Stamford, Harlan

Stanton, Stanton  
Staplehurst, Seward  
Stapleton, Logan  
Star, Holt  
Steele City, Jefferson  
Steinauer, Pawnee  
Stella, Richardson  
Sterling, Johnson  
Stevens, Frontier  
Stockham, Hamilton  
Stockville, Frontier  
Stoddard, Thayer  
Story, Sioux  
Strang, Fillmore  
Strasburger, Sheridan  
Stratton, Hitchcock  
Straussville, Richardson  
Strickland, Hayes  
Stromsburg, Polk  
Stuart, Holt  
Summit, Lancaster  
Summit, McPherson  
Sumner, Dawson  
Sunnyside, Brown  
Sunol, Cheyenne  
Sunrise, Merrick  
Superior, Nuckolls  
Surprise, Butler  
Survey, Cherry  
Sutherland, Lincoln  
Sutton, Clay  
Swan, Holt  
Swanton, Saline  
Swedeburg, Saunders  
Swedehome, Polk  
Sweetwater, Buffalo  
Sybrant, Rock  
Syracuse, Otoe  
Table Rock, Pawnee  
Talmage, Otoe  
Tamora, Seward  
Tarnov, Platte  
Tate, Pawnee  
Taylor, Loup  
Tecumseh, Johnson  
Tekamah, Buri  
Thatcher, Cherry  
Thayer, York  
Thedford, Thomas  
Thompson, Jefferson  
Thornburg, Hayes  
Thurman, Rock  
Thurston, Thurston  
Tilden, Madison  
Tobias, Saline  
Tonawanda, Holt  
Tonic, Holt

Toohy, Scotts Bluff  
Touhy, Saunders  
Townsend, Gage  
Trenton, Hitchcock  
Trouble, Cherry  
Troy, Kimball  
Trumbull, Clay  
Tryon, McPherson  
Turner, Holt  
Uehling, Dodge  
Ulysses, Butler  
Unadilla, Otoe  
Underwood, Hall  
Union, Cass  
Unit, Sioux  
University Place, Lancaster  
Upland, Franklin  
Utica, Seward  
Valentine, Cherry  
Valley, Douglas  
Valleyview, Loup  
Valparaiso, Saunders  
Valyrang, McPherson  
Van, Banner  
Venango, Perkins  
Venus, Knox  
Verdigre, Knox  
Verdon, Richardson  
Verona, Clay  
Vesta, Johnson  
Vian, Cherry  
Vim, Antelope  
Violet, Pawnee  
Virginia, Gage  
Vista, Dakota  
Vroman, Lincoln  
Wabash, Cass  
Waco, York  
Wagner, Logan  
Wahoo, Saunders  
Wakefield, Dixon  
Wallace, Lincoln  
Walnut, Knox  
Walthill, Thurston  
Walton, Lancaster  
Walworth, Custer  
Wann, Saunders  
Wareham, Cedar  
Warnerville, Madison  
Washington, Washington  
Waterbury, Dixon  
Waterloo, Douglas  
Watertown, Buffalo

Wauneta, Chase  
Wausa, Knox  
Waverly, Lancaster  
Wayne, Wayne  
Wayside, Dawes  
Weeping Water, Cass  
Weir, Hooker  
Weissert, Custer  
Wellfleet, Lincoln  
Wells, Cherry  
Western, Saline  
Westerville, Custer  
West Lincoln, Lancaster  
Westmark, Phelps  
Weston, Saunders  
West Point, Cuming  
Weyerts, Cheyenne  
Wheeler, Wheeler  
White, Hayes  
Whiteclay, Sheridan  
Whitman, Grant  
Whitney, Dawes  
Whittier, Lincoln  
Wilber, Saline  
Wilcox, Kearney  
Willard, Lincoln  
Willey, Box Butte  
Williams, Thayer  
Williamsburg, Phelps  
Willow Island, Dawson  
Wilsonville, Furnas  
Winfield, Brown  
Winnebago, Thurston  
Winnetoon, Knox  
Winside, Wayne  
Winslow, Dodge  
Wisner, Cuming  
Wolbach, Greeley  
Woodcliff, Saunders  
Wood Lake, Cherry  
Woodlawn, Lancaster  
Wood River, Hall  
Woodrow, Scotts Bluff  
Worms, Merrick  
Wymore, Gage  
Wynot, Cedar  
Wyoming, Otoe  
Yale, Box Butte  
York, York  
Yucahill, Custer  
Yutan, Saunders  
Zion, Burt

## INDEX OF CHANGED NAMES

The first word is the former name, the second word is the present name, the third word is the county in which the place is situated.

- |                                         |                                            |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Adam, Oliver, Kimball                   | Cullinan, Bucktail, Arthur                 |
| Adelia, Orella, Sioux                   | Daley, Dale, Custer                        |
| Alvin, Mead, Saunders                   | Dawes City, Whitney, Dawes                 |
| Antelope, Clearwater, Antelope          | Dellinger, Hyannis, Grant                  |
| Antelope Hill, Angora, Morrill          | Delta, Lorton, Otoe                        |
| Antelopeville, Kimball, Kimball         | Dennison, Dunbar, Otoe                     |
| Arago, Fargo, Richardson                | DeWitt, Dorchester, Saline                 |
| Arcade, Shelby, Polk                    | Dogtown, Glenvil, Clay                     |
| Athens, Pender, Thurston                | Dorrance, Oconee, Platte                   |
| Athens, Saint Paul, Howard              | Earth Lodge, Whitney, Dawes                |
| Athens, University Place,<br>Lancaster  | Eden, Edgar, Clay                          |
| Baird, Wheeler, Wheeler                 | Eggleston, Elgin, Antelope                 |
| Bedford, Howe, Nemaha                   | Eldon, Elyria, Valley                      |
| Bell Creek, Arlington, Washington       | Elkhorn City, Elk City, Douglas            |
| Bellwoods, Bellwood, Butler             | Elm Bridge, Westerville, Custer            |
| Belmont, Bluehill, Webster              | Elm Grove, Carns, Keya Paha                |
| Berlin, Otoe, Otoe                      | Erin, Erina, Garfield                      |
| Best, Horsefoot, Rock                   | Fairview, McCook, Red Willow               |
| Blackbird county, Thurston<br>county    | Fairview, Murray, Cass                     |
| Blue River City, Crete, Saline          | Flournoy, Thurston, Thurston               |
| Bluffton, Preston, Richardson           | Fontenelle, Fontanelle, Wash-<br>ington    |
| Bowen, Harrison, Sioux                  | Fort Atkinson, Fort Calhoun,<br>Washington |
| Brady, Vista, Dakota                    | Fort Childs, Kearney, Buffalo              |
| Brno, Bruno, Butler                     | Frances, Tecumseh, Johnson                 |
| Bromfield, Giltner, Hamilton            | Frankfort, Fairfield, Clay                 |
| Brownville, Arcadia, Valley             | Franklin, Jackson, Dakota                  |
| Bunnell, Hazard, Sherman                | Galesburg, Cortland, Gage                  |
| Burnett, Tilden, Madison                | Gelston, Elk City, Douglas                 |
| Burr Oak, Burr, Otoe                    | Germantown, Garland, Seward                |
| Burrows, Tarnov, Platte                 | Georgetown, Glenvil, Clay                  |
| Burton's Bend, Holbrook, Furnas         | Get-there-Eli, Eli, Cherry                 |
| Butler, Violet, Pawnee                  | Glenville, Glenvil, Clay                   |
| Buxton, Sawyer, Fillmore                | Grand Lake, Alliance, Box Butte            |
| Calhoun county, Saunders county         | Grandview, Oxford, Furnas                  |
| Calvert, Auburn, Nemaha                 | Greeley, Phoenix, Holt                     |
| Campbell, Perry, Red Willow             | Greenberry, Ong, Clay                      |
| Carisbrook, Stamford, Harlan            | Greene county, Seward county               |
| Castor, Tobias, Saline                  | Harney City, Covington, Dakota             |
| Cheyney's Station, Cheney,<br>Lancaster | Harold, Orella, Sioux                      |
| Cio, Lorton, Otoe                       | Hendricks, Douglas, Otoe                   |
| Coldrain, Carleton, Thayer              | Hesperia, Fairmont, Fillmore               |
| Coleraine, Carleton, Thayer             | Highland, Berks, Lancaster                 |
| Collinsville, Benkelman, Dundy          | Howells, Howell, Colfax                    |
| Coy, Sedan, Nuckolls                    | Hudson, Hamlet, Hayes                      |
| Crowellton, Odessa, Buffalo             | Huff, Hough, Dawes                         |
|                                         | Hunkins, Cordova, Seward                   |

- Hunter, Andrews, Sioux  
 Izard county, Stanton county  
 Jackson, Duncan, Platte  
 Janesville, Berwyn, Custer  
 Jefferson county, Thayer county  
 Juanita, Wauneta, Chase  
 Kearney, Buda, Buffalo  
 Kearney Junction, Kearney,  
     Buffalo  
 Kearny, Kearney, Buffalo  
 Laird, Maywood, Frontier  
 Lancaster, Lincoln, Lancaster  
 Larimer, La Platte, Sarpy  
 L'Eau Qui Court county, Knox  
     county  
 Little Moon, Caldwell, Scotts  
     Bluff  
 Loran, Loretto, Boone  
 Lost Creek, Oconee, Platte  
 McPherson, Maxwell, Lincoln  
 Mason, Mason City, Custer  
 Medicine Creek, Cambridge,  
     Furnas  
 Melrose, Orleans, Harlan  
 Merryman, Merriman, Cherry  
 Mineral, Dorsey, Holt  
 Moore's Field, Moorfield, Frontier  
 Morris, Swanton, Saline  
 Morton, Lanham, Gage  
 Mud Springs, Simla, Morrill  
 Munsonville, Warnerville, Madison  
 Murray, Hampton, Hamilton  
 Newport, Covington, Dakota  
 New York, York, York  
 North Auburn, Auburn, Nemaha  
 Oakland, Oakdale, Antelope  
 Oberton, Obert, Cedar  
 Olax, Oconto, Custer  
 Omaha Agency, Macy, Thurston  
     Oressa, Bodarc, Sioux  
     Ortello Grove, Ortello, Custer  
     Pappio, Irvington, Douglas  
     Pawnee, Alda, Hall  
     Plano, Hampton, Hamilton  
     Platte Sanders, Valley, Douglas  
     Platte Valley, Valley, Douglas  
     Plum Creek, Lexington, Dawson  
     Poole Siding, Poole, Buffalo  
     Posen, Farwell, Howard  
     Ramsey, Lutherville, Garden  
     Reno, Antioch, Sheridan  
     Rockcreek, Beemer, Cumming  
     Roseville, Plainview, Pierce  
     Rouse, Mascot, Harlan  
     Sac, Preston, Richardson  
     Saunders, Mead, Saunders  
     Savage, Royal, Antelope  
     Shelby, Buda, Buffalo  
     Sheridan, Auburn, Nemaha  
     Shorter county, Lincoln county  
     Skull Creek, Linwood, Butler  
     Smartville, Saint Mary, Johnson  
     South Sioux City, Sioux, Dakota  
     Spitley, Richland, Colfax  
     Stewart Siding, Toohey, Scotts  
     Bluff  
     Summit, Manley, Cass  
     Sunlight, Eagle, Cass  
     Suttler, Marengo, Hayes  
     Sweden, Verona, Clay  
     Troy, Paddock, Holt  
     Trail City, Madrid, Perkins  
     Verdigris, Verdigre, Knox  
     Webster's town, Burwell, Garfield  
     White Elm, Fairfield, Clay  
     Wilson, Dunbar, Otoe  
     Wood River Center, Shelton,  
     Buffalo

## ERRATA

(The University of Nebraska Press is grateful to DR. JOHN B. WHITE, Librarian, Nebraska State Historical Society, for supplying the following list of errata.)

Page 5, line 22, for Miss Elvira Merrick read Mrs. Elvira Merrick.

Page 10, line 27. According to Mr. Franz Radke, Wynot was thus named because an old German who owned land in the vicinity was constantly saying: "Why not put the town on my place?" This is a slight variation of the account given here and on pages 34-35.

Page 16, line 7, for I. N. Togler read I. N. Taylor.

Page 28, line 36, for 1867-1872 read 1867-1871.

Page 52, line 25. Bigspring is spelled Big Springs on the 1960 Nebraska highway map.

Page 55, line 15, for Watson read Watkins. See note on page 152, line 1, below.

Page 68, line 30. The town was named by T. E. Calvert. See Thomas M. Davis, "Lines West! The Story of George W. Holdrege," *Nebraska History*, XXXI (June 1950), p. 125.

Page 92, line 35, for capitol read capital.

Page 105, lines 6-7. The town was named for Belgrade, Maine, whence the settlers came, according to Miss Myrtle D. Berry, a native of Belgrade and Research Associate of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Page 107, line 6. According to Miss Myrtle D. Berry, Joseph Deroin was not a chief.

Page 110, line 17. Thomas DeWitt Talmage was a member of the Dutch Reformed Church, not the Presbyterian.

Page 119, line 40, for Tucker read Tinker.

Page 148, line 24, for Watson's read Watkin's.

Page 152, line 1, for vo. read vol. The name of J. Sterling Morton also should be included in the bibliographical listing of this work, the first volume of which appeared

in 1904. Although the title page of volume 3 credits Albert Watkins with sole authorship of that volume, the work is generally known as the Morton-Watkins history.

Page 154, column 1, for Abbot read Abbott.

Page 155, Column 1. See note on Bigspring above. In the same column, for Bordeau read Bordeaux.

Pages 165-166, the following are omitted from the Index of Changed Names:

Buchanan, Nonpareil, Box Butte

Burr, Burr Oak, Otoe

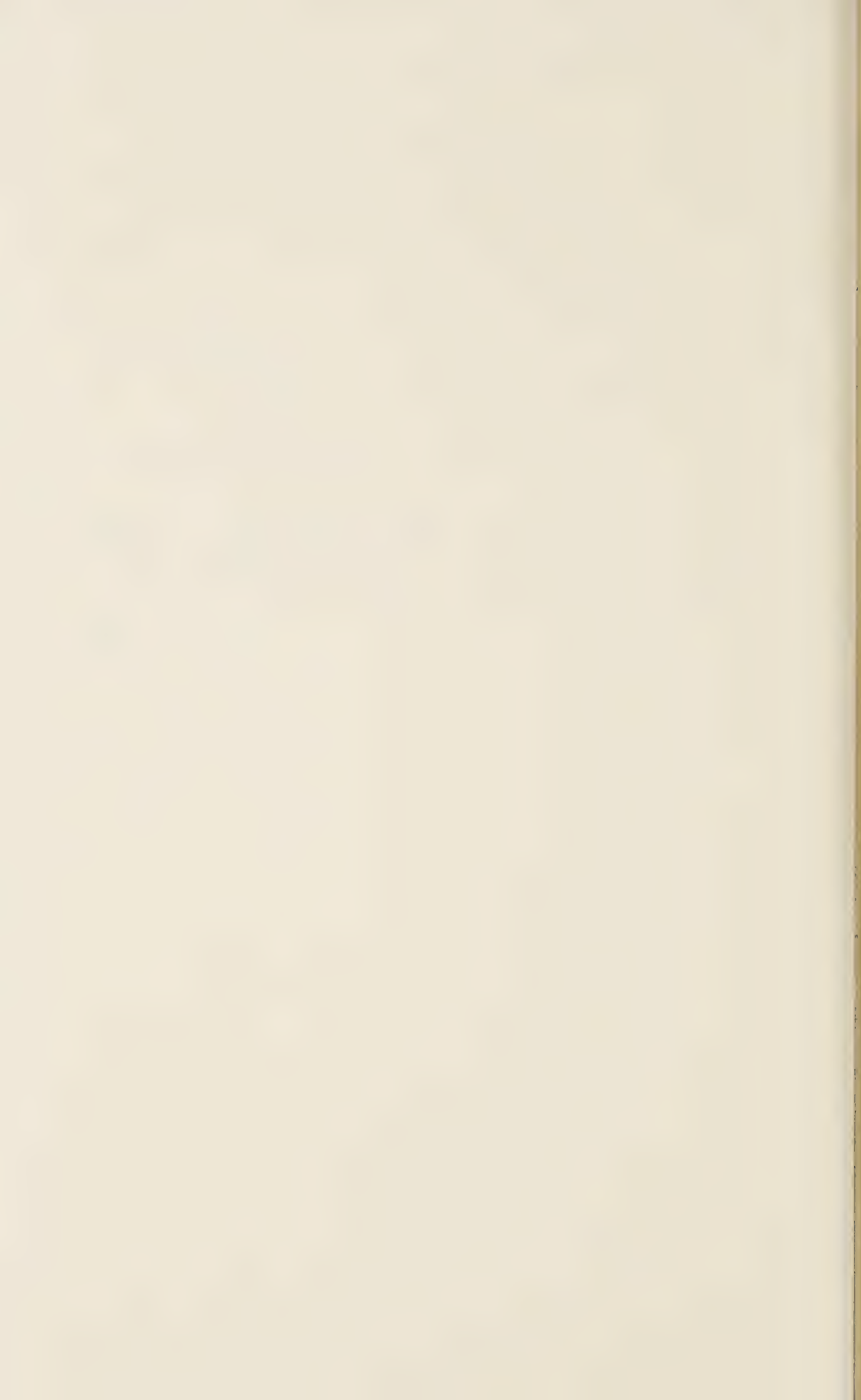
Lone Star, Dwight, Butler

PART TWO

*Selections from*

THE ORIGIN OF THE  
PLACE-NAMES OF NEBRASKA

by J. T. LINK



## THE NAME OF THE STATE

The name Nebraska was first officially proposed by William Wilkins, Secretary of War, in an 1844 report urging that the territory be organized. He suggested that "The Platte or Nebraska, being the central stream leading into and from the Great South Pass would very properly furnish a name for the territory." Wilkins probably received the name from Lieutenant John C. Fremont, who mentions the Nebraska River in the report on his 1842 exploring trip through the Platte Valley.

The word "Nebraska", is an aboriginal word, or rather a white man's approximation of it, but whether the state's name is derived from the Omaha language or the Otoe is an open question. Both tribes were of the Siouan linguistic stock; their names for the Platte were similar, the Omaha being *Ni bthaska ke* and the Otoe *Nibrathka*, and both had the same literal meaning, "flat water." Allowing for the white man's difficulty in rendering these names into his own language, either one of the aboriginal names approaches the name "Nebraska" as nearly as does the other. Both Otoe and Omaha at one time lived in the lower region of the stream's course. There is no authentic source to indicate from which of the two languages the name "Nebraska," as applied to the stream, was derived.

*Ni* means "water" in both the Otoe and Omaha languages. The Omaha particle *ke* always denotes a horizontal position, and in connection with the name of a stream it carries the idea of the stream flowing through level land, or a plain. The Omaha name *Ni bthaska ke* means "water flowing through a plain." The French correctly translated the name when they placed *La Rivière Plate*, "the flat river," on their maps. The position of the stream in its broad, level valley gave the appearance of flatness. Thus the valley was associated in the aboriginal mind with the name of the stream.

## NAMES OF OTHER CULTURAL FEATURES

### I. TRAILS, RANCH AND OVERLAND STATIONS, AND CAMPING PLACES

Nebraska lay in the path of westward travel and migration; trails or roads thus led through the state. The names given these highways do not always denote separate lines of travel but often designate parts of larger trails, or they denote branches leading to them. The various trails were known by different names.

The objective point is expressed in the names of the following trails or roads: Oregon, Denver, Pikes Peak, California, Black Hills, and Fort Kearny. The initial or starting point is expressed in the names Nebraska City Cut-Off and McPherson Trail. Both terminal and initial points are indicated in the name Nebraska City-Fort Kearny Road. The Oregon Trail was also referred to as the Overland Trail because, as the name indicates, it led overland to the Pacific Coast.

Names that show purpose or indicate the user or creator of the trail include Mormon, Old Emigrant, Old Government, Gordons, Lanes, and Military.

The Steam Wagon Road was a name applied to the Nebraska City Cut-Off, because an attempt was made to haul freight westward over it by means of a steam wagon.

There were well-known stopping places or "ranches" along the various trails and stations for the Pony Express and Overland Trail. The "ranches" might be called frontier hotels or wayside inns where travelers could get lodging, food for themselves, feed for their animals and other necessities needed on the way. Quite a number derived their names from associated physical features. Streams furnished such names as Big Sandy, Plum Creek, Whisky Run, and Rock Creek. Alkali Station was named for a nearby lake; the camping places Diamond Springs, Mud Springs, and Fremont Springs were named for associated springs. The following names point out tree growth: Oak Grove, Elm

Grove, and Cottonwood Tree, the latter named for a tree that was conspicuous for miles up and down the Platte Valley. Last Timber names a camping place beyond which timber was absent or very scarce. The name Coldwater Ranch points out a thermal condition of the water at the ranch. The famous Ash Hollow camping place takes its name from trees and a condition of topography. The name Willow Island was derived from an island in the vicinity.

Location relative to other points is expressed in the names Midway Station, Seventeen Mile Ranch, Thirty-two Mile Ranch, and Halfway House.

Personal names are also a source of the names of a number of former ranches—Caldwells, Eubanks, Thompsons, and others.

Kiowa and Pawnee stations are named for Indian tribes; a ranch with a deep well became known as Deepwell Ranch; and Buffalo Ranch commemorates the name of a native animal.

## II. MILITARY POSTS AND RESERVATIONS, INDIAN RESERVATIONS AND AGENCIES, NATIONAL FOREST RESERVES, NURSERIES, BIRD RESERVES, AND MONUMENTS

Military posts were established in Nebraska in pre- and post-territorial days to protect overland travelers and settlers. According to their status with the War Department, these posts were designated as forts, camps, barracks, posts, and cantonments.

The official names of forts, which were bestowed by the War Department, were derived mostly from personal names and honored distinguished officers. Among such names are Kearny, Atkinson, McPherson, Robinson, Crook, Mitchell, and Hartsuff. Some of the posts that later became forts were originally camps, barracks, or cantonments and were named by their commanding officers. These names were not always officially recognized, and were afterwards changed. Camps Shuman and Sheridan, Cantonment McKean, and Sherman Barracks were named for officers of various ranks. A temporary post which had a very brief

existence, Fort Grattan, was named for Lieutenant John Grattan, killed near Fort Laramie in the "Mormon Cow" incident a short time before the post was established in 1854. The name Fort Clarke was given to a blockhouse built for troops sent to protect the property of Henry T. Clarke, who built the North Platte River bridge serving the Black Hills traffic. Forts Sidney and Omaha were named for towns; Fort Niobrara took the name of the river on which it was located, as did Camp Missouri or Camp-on-the-Missouri; and Fort Cottonwood, also known as Post Cottonwood, was named for the nearby springs.

The encampment of Major Long and his party of engineers was known as Engineers Cantonment.

Manuel Lisa's trading post on the Missouri was at times referred to as Fort Lisa; this was not, however, a government post.

Changes in the names of military posts were made in some cases to honor officers who had distinguished themselves. Sometimes the name by which a post was generally known was not officially recognized, and when the official name was given, it was different from the one by which the post was originally known. Camp Missouri became Fort Atkinson; Cantonment McKean became Post Cottonwood, Fort Cottonwood, and ultimately Fort McPherson; Fort Childs became Fort Kearny; Sherman Barracks became Omaha Barracks, then Fort Omaha, and, upon its removal, Fort Crook.

Military reservations established in connection with forts took the names of the respective forts, as, Fort Robinson Military Reservation, Fort McPherson Military Reservation, Fort Kearny Military Reservation, etc. Fort McPherson National Cemetery derived its name from the fort.

Indian reservations and agencies generally took their names from the tribes for whom they were established, thus: Omaha, San'tee or Santee-Isanyati, Winnebago, Otoe-and-Missouri, and Pawnee. Some agencies were known by the names of prominent chiefs, as the Red Cloud and Spotted-tail agencies. The names of Council Bluff, Pine Ridge, and

Great Nemaha agencies were borrowed from physical features. The Half Breed Tract was so named because it was set aside for the "occupany of the Omaha, Ioway, Ottoe, Yanckton and Santie-Sioux half-breeds." The Old Whetstone Agency brought its name into the state from South Dakota, where it was named for a stream.

There are two federal forest reserves in the state, the Halsey National Forest Reserve and the Niobrara National Forest Reserve. The Halsey was named for the nearby village of Halsey and the Niobrara for its location south of the Niobrara River. At the Halsey Reserve is the Bessey Nursery, named in honor of Dr. Charles E. Bessey, of the University of Nebraska, who was instrumental in establishing the reserve. Fort Robinson Wood and Timber Reservation takes its name from the fort near it.

The government has set aside tracts of land as bird reserves; one of these, the Niobrara Bird Reserve, takes its name from the river that flows through it; the other, the North Platte Bird Reserve, was named from its connection with the North Platte Project of the United State Reclamation Service.

Scotts Bluff National Monument was named for the old landmark, Scotts Bluff.

### III. STATE PARKS AND OTHER RECREATION GROUNDS

Under this heading is included all property under the control of the Game, Forestation and Parks Commission and designated as state parks, recreation grounds, fish hatcheries, game reserves, bird refuges, shooting grounds, and monuments.

In 1921 Nebraska began the establishment of a system of state parks. It has now seven of these. One, Chadron State Park, was named for the stream that flows through it. Arbor Lodge State Park took its name from Arbor Lodge, the home of the founder of Arbor Day, J. Sterling Morton, who established an arboretum on his land. Victoria Springs State Park derives its name from springs located in the park. Stolley State Park was named for William Stolley, a pioneer

of Central Nebraska, on whose homestead it is located. Fort Kearny State Park was named for the old historic fort. Ponca State Park commemorates the name of a tribe that once dwelt in the region, and Niobrara State Park takes its name from the river.

In addition to the parks, there are twenty-five state recreation grounds located throughout Nebraska. Most have been named for some physical feature they contain. Sixteen have been named for lakes, some of which have been made by diverting water into basins and some by dyking. The following are a few of the recreation grounds that have been named for lakes: Goose Lake, Rat Lake, Deer Lake, Walgreen Lake, Rowell Lake, Willow Lake, and Alexander Lake recreation grounds.

The Commission has stocked several worked-out sand and gravel pits with fish. There are facilities for swimming as well as fishing, and tree-sheltered picnic areas. Their names come from the counties in which they are located: Dodge County Sandpit Recreation Grounds and Cass County Sandpit Recreation Grounds.

The Blue River Recreation Grounds and the Loup River Recreation Grounds were named for streams.

Pressey Recreation Grounds has a personal name, that of the donor of the land.

Nebraska has four state fish hatcheries; three of these were named for nearby towns, namely, Valentine, Gretna, and Benkelman; Rock Creek State Fish Hatchery was named for a stream.

The two state game reserves have been named for natural features, as their names, Niobrara Island Game Reserve and Wildcat Game Reserve, indicate.

Crescent Lake Bird Refuge was named for a lake.

Ballards Marsh Shooting Grounds takes the name of a marsh.

Massacre Canyon Monument was named for the memorial which commemorates the last battle between Indian tribes of Nebraska, the Pawnee and the Sioux.

## NAMES OF HYDROGRAPHIC FEATURES

The term "river" has been generally applied to our larger streams. The smaller are designated as "creek," "branch," "fork," "prong," "run," "slough," and "brook," with no sharp distinction in the use of these names. The terms "creek" and "run" denote small streams, the latter being a rather local term and not characterized by any feature that would distinguish it from a creek; they are used interchangeably, though "creek" has been applied extensively while "run" is used only in a few cases. The terms "branch," "fork," and "prong" suggest tributary streams. "Fork" and "prong" are strongly figurative and convey the idea of angular division when viewed from some distance down the parent stream, calling to mind the teeth or tines of a fork or the prongs of a horn. A "slough" is also a drainage feature; the name is used to denote a low, wet place associated with stagnant water, having flowing water only in times of freshets. It is not always applied in this sense in Nebraska nomenclature, for it is used synonymously with "creek" in a number of stream names.

The indiscriminate use of some of these terms is explained by the fact that the people who bestowed them were unable to make definite distinctions. They applied names on the basis of characteristics common to some similar features previously known to them through former contact.

Most of the major streams of the state were known under various names; this is particularly true of the names applied by the aboriginal people of Nebraska. Such names are either descriptive of some inherent physical feature, or they are commemorative of a tribe that inhabited the region drained by these streams. They flow through and form parts of the boundaries of many counties. Because of their importance and because it appears from their names that different characteristics of these streams appealed to the different people who christened them, a separate and more detailed discussion of their names is warranted.

## I. THE PLATTE RIVER\*

On some of the early maps the name of the Platte is given as the Nebraska or Platte River, the former denoting an aboriginal name and the latter a translation of an aboriginal name as given by the French. It is also referred to as the Great Platte River. The name Platte was given by the Mallet Brothers in 1739. They called it "La Rivière Plate," a name which has been retained to the present day as the Platte River. The name is derived from the French "plat," meaning "flat": the "Flat River." The name corresponds in meaning to the Otoe, Omaha, and Pawnee names of the stream.

Mr. George McVicker, who has made extensive studies in the early history of the state, says:

The river was named while the explorers (Mallet Brothers) were in Pawnee territory (about at the present site of Kearney), and they very probably had Pawnee guides with them when coming to the river as they returned from the Loup, and these Pawnees telling the explorers the name in Pawnee language, signifying Flat Water, it was then that the Mallets translated the name into La Platte or Platte.

The French name of the Niobrara is the same in significance as the Pawnee (see page 181), and there are other instances of French names corresponding to the aboriginal. The French probably translated the Pawnee name. If not, the same characteristic that appealed to the Indians induced them to use the name they gave the river.

The Pawnee name of the Platte was *Kits Katus*; *kits*, "moving water" or "stream"; *katus*, "flat": "Flat Water."

The Otoe called it *Ni brathka*; *ni*, "water"; *brathka*, "flat": "Flat Water."

The Omaha name closely resembles the Otoe, a related language. In the Omaha language the name is *Ni bthaska*

\* A discussion of the name of the Missouri River is omitted, on the grounds that only a comparatively small portion of this river's course is within the boundaries of Nebraska, and that the name was not bestowed by explorers of Nebraska or by Indians native to the state.—G. T. F.

ke, and is so used in the *Twenty-Seventh Annual Report of the American Bureau of Ethnology*. M. R. Gilmore says:

According to Omaha usage it would be quite proper to add the descriptive particle *ke*, but actually I have not heard it so, but simply *Ni bthaska* (Flat River), but it is quite possible that *ke* might be added sometimes.

The Omaha name *Ni bthaska ke* is derived from *ni*, "water" or "river," and *bthaska*, "flat"; *ke* denotes a horizontal position, and with stream names it conveys the idea of a stream flowing through or spreading over its low flood plain. The name is thus translated "Flat Water" or "Flat River."

Both Omaha and Otoe names embody some reference to the valley through which the river flows. Viewed from a distance, the stream in the wide and low valley has the appearance of being flat in distinction to streams intrenched in narrow valleys. The idea in the aboriginal mind was that of a wide stream flowing through a wide and low flood plain. The implication of shallowness is not contained in the name of the stream, but rather that of flatness or levelness of the water in conjunction with the bordering flood plain. The Omaha name *Ni bthaska*, and the Otoe *Ni brathka*, are easily recognized in corrupted form in the name of our state, Nebraska.

*Pankeska Wakpa* was the Dakota name of the Platte. It appears also as *Kanpeska Wakpa*, due to a dialectic difference in which there is a consonantal shift. *Pankeska* means "shell," "moon shell"; *wakpa*, "river": "Moonshell River." In ancient times, according to Dr. Gilmore, the Dakota obtained shells from traders from other tribes whom they met at this stream. The shells, pink in color and iridescent, were used as ornaments.

The Gros Ventres used the name *Abits wii ni tseh*; *abits*, "big"; *wii*, "Moonshell"; *ni tseh*, "river": "Big Moonshell River." The Kiowa name was *Kodaliaton Pa*, from *koliaton*, "necklace shell," used as neck pendants, and *pa*, "river": "Necklace Shell River." *Minniohe* was the Cheyenne name

of the Platte; *minni*, "shell" (obtained from traders), *ohe*, "river": "Shell River." There is an obvious similarity of meaning in the names given by the Dakota, Gros Ventres, Kiowa, and Cheyenne.

The Spaniards sent an expedition to the Platte in 1720 under Villazur which was massacred on the Platte, probably at its junction with the Loup. The report of this expedition has lately been found and translated. In it the Platte is referred to as the "Rio Jesús y Maria," "River of Jesus and Mary."

Early French and Spanish explorers used various names to designate the Platte. Villazur used a religious name; other Spaniards did likewise. These explorers were in the service of the church and the state. Their religious zeal and thought found expression in the place-names they bestowed. Besides the name given by Villazur, we find the names "Rio San Pedro y San Pablo," St. Peter and St. Paul River." The Spanish name of the Platte, "Rio Grande," "Grand River," is descriptive. The name "Rio Quivira (Skidira)," Skidi or "Wolf River," names the people inhabiting the region through which the stream flows. Early French descriptive names are "Rivière la Fourche," "The Forked River," and "Belle Rivière," "Beautiful River." The name "Rivière des Panis," "Pawnee River," was given for the Pawnee tribe.

## II. THE NIOBRARA RIVER

The name is an approximation of the Omaha-Ponca designation *Ni obthatha ke*. This name was given in reference to its characteristic spreading during freshets over its flood plain. *Ni* means "water," and *obthatha* or *ubthatha* denotes "spreading"; the particle *ke* refers to something in a horizontal position, and in connection with the name of a stream it carries the connotation of a stream flowing through a plain. The meaning thus would be "water spreading and flowing through a plain," "Spreading Water River," or briefly, "Spreading River," "Wide River," names descriptive of a condition that holds true in the lower course of the stream.

The Dakota seem to have been impressed in a similar way. They called it *Mini tanka Wakpa*. The word *mini* is their word for "water"; *tanka* is the equivalent of "big," "great," "grand," and in connection with a stream it embodies the idea of "a wide stream"; *wakpa* is their word for "river." It has been translated as "Big River" or "Grand River" and "Big Water." To the Dakota it must have been big or great only from the viewpoint of width, for in this sense would the name be descriptive of a condition that obtains near the mouth where the river widens from a narrow stream in a gorge to a wide stream in a valley and this fact is more impressive in times of high water. The Dakota name would be more properly rendered as "Wide River" or "Spreading River." Thus it was the spreading characteristic of the river that appealed to the Omaha, Ponca, and Dakota. To some people of the Dakota nation the stream was known as "Flat Water." Mrs. Rosa Ruff, a Dakota woman, says: "The Niobrara is called by the Sioux (Dakota) *Mniblaska*, meaning 'Flat Water' because it is a wide, shallow stream."

The Pawnee name of the Niobrara was *Kits'kakis*; *kits* is the Pawnee word for "moving water," "river"; *kakis*, "happy," "gay," "glad." The idea here refers to rapidity due to good spirits or gaiety; hence the name would be "Swift" or "Rapid River." The Pawnee name describes a condition of the flow of the water. Its velocity, as viewed in the narrow part of the course, was in the aboriginal mind when this name was bestowed.

The early French explorers either translated the Pawnee name, or the velocity of the stream where they came upon it inspired them to place the name "*L'eau qui court*," "The water that runs," "Running Water" on their maps. The French name is found frequently in early literature pertaining to the state and on the older maps. It was once used as the name of the present Knox County. Lewis and Clark called it "*La rivière qui court*," "the river which runs."

Other names are found which are translations of the French or Pawnee name. Major Long calls it "Running-

water Creek" and "Nebrara" or "Spreading Water." The stream is also referred to as "Runningwater River," "Running Water," "Rapidwater," and "Rapid River."

The Cheyenne name of the Niobrara was *Hisse yovi yoe*, "Sudden, or Unexpected, river," "Surprise river" (*hissi yowoiv*, "suddenly" and *ohe*, "river"). It is said that the Cheyenne, crossing a wide flat on which there grew no timber or willows, were astonished when they came on the stream flowing through this flat. This is said to be the character of Niobrara River between the headwaters of Snake Creek and White River to the north. Without this traditional explanation the name of Niobrara might perhaps be translated "Sandy river," from *his siyovoiv*, "sandy," and *ohe*, "river," but the Cheyenne always explain the stream's name as given above.

(George Bird Grinnell, *The American Anthropologist*, VIII [1906], 19)

The Cheyenne name, then, would be one prompted by the condition of the region adjacent to the headwaters of the stream.

We have thus in the various names of the Niobrara those that are descriptive of its size, of its flow, and of the region adjoining it, according to the place along its course where the respective characteristics obtain.

### III. THE REPUBLICAN RIVER

Gilmore states that this stream was so named because it was in the region of the Pawnee Republic, the habitat of the Republican Pawnee, a name applied by white men to this tribe because of their own form of government. Albert Watkins of the Nebraska State Historical Society says: "There has been much speculation resulting in contradictory conclusions about the origin of this name. The most plausible explanation I have been able to find, as yet, is that given by Dr. Gilmore." John B. Dunbar, speaking of names of the various Pawnee tribes, writes:

The English names given are all of French origin. . . .

The exact origin of Republican as applied to the second band, I never learned. There has been a tradition that it was first suggested by the semi-republican system of government observed among them when first known; but this feature was no more marked with them than among the other bands. It is also said to have been applied to them because of their having formerly resided upon the Republican River; but the vice versa, the stream was in all probability so named for the band (cf. The Kansas River for the Kansas Indians, the Osage from the Osages, etc.)

("The Pawnee Indians," *Magazine of American History*, IV [1880], 260)

It was the custom to name streams for the tribes that dwelt on their banks and not to name tribes for the streams.

The Republican Pawnees are a branch of the Pani proper, or, as they are frequently termed, Big Paunch. About ten years since they withdrew themselves from the mother nation and established a village on the northwardly branch of the Kansas, to which they have given name.

(Lewis and Clark, in R. G. Thwaite, *Early Western Travels*, XV, 233)

The stream is also designated as the Republican Fork, a name that is self-explanatory.

The Dakota called it *Palani* (*Padani*) *Wakpa*, "Pawnee River," from *Palani* or *Padani*, the Omaha name of the Pawnee, and *wakpa*, "river." They named it so because it was in the Pawnee country.

The Pawnee name of the river was *Ki raru ta*, "Turbid Water," compounded from *ki* (*kitsu*), "water," and *raruta*, "turbid." Grinnell translates it as "Manure River"; *kitsu*, "water"; *ut at u*, "dung" or perhaps *rarutah*, "it is filthy." "So called because of the enormous number of buffalo which resorted to it, polluting the waters." J. W. Williamson writes that the Pawnee name signifies "Manure Water." Alexan-

der Lesser gives the following translation in a letter to the author dated February 26, 1931:

*Kiraruta*; *ki*, "water" (not moving); *raruta*, "scummy" (referring to intestinal contents). The expression refers to the fact that many buffalo were killed by the Pawnee upstream. The intestines were washed out in the water before they, with the rest of the animal were carried away by the Pawnees, and this accumulation of matter in the water would flow down stream and, so my informant tells me, form a sluggish scum on the surface of the water (like that seen where sewers empty into water courses which are sluggish near the surface).

The names given the river by the Cheyenne and the Omaha are commemorative of certain events in these tribes' histories.

*Ma hoheva ohe* was the name the Cheyenne used for this stream, derived from *mahoheva*, "red shield," and *hoe*, "river." So named because the young men were collecting for a meeting of the "Red Shield Soldiers," so called because they carried red shields.

(George Bird Grinnell, *The Cheyenne Indians*, p. 48)

The Omaha name is of recent origin, *Watan thata i ke*, "Where-They-Ate-the-Squashes-River," from *watan*, "squashes," *thata*, "to eat," *i*, "they," and *ke*, "river" or "stream."

On a buffalo hunt the Omahas found a white settler's place seemingly abandoned. No people were living near, the place seemed abandoned, and there were no signs of recent occupation except a good garden with various vegetables and most abundant of all, a good crop of squashes. The Omahas helped themselves and ever since have named the river from that event.

(M. R. Gilmore, *Report on the Aboriginal Geography of the Dakota*, p. 6)

## IV. THE LOUP RIVER

The name "Loup" was given by the French for the Skidi branch of the Pawnee tribe that had villages along this stream. The name "Loup" is a French translation of the Pawnee word *skidi* (*skiri*) and signifies "wolf." Various names have been used for this stream. It was known as the Loup Fork, because it is a branch or fork of the parent stream, the Platte. Other names used were Wolf Fork of the Platte, Wolf River, Pawnee Wolf River, and Pawnee Loup River. The Mallet Brothers refer to this stream as the *Panimaha*, *Pani* meaning "Pawnee" and *maha*, "upstream": "Upstream Pawnee." The Omaha name of the Pawnee was *Pathin*, and their word for "upstream" was *manhan*, so they called the Skidi the *Pathinmanha*, the "Upstream Pawnee," because they lived upstream from other Pawnee.

*Nu tan ke* was the name applied to this river by the Omaha. The name is derived from *nu*, meaning the *Apios tuberosa*, commonly called the wild potato, although it is not related to the potato; *tan* is "plenty"; *ke*, "extending along." The Omaha name means "River-Where-Wild-Potato-Abounds."

The Pawnee name of the Loup has a similar origin. Its name in this language was *Its Kitsu* or *Its kari Kitsu*, from *its*, "wild potato," *kari*, "plenty," and *kitsu*, "water" or "river": "Plenty Wild Potato River." When the Pawnee first saw the potato, they had no name for it, but in time the name *its* was transferred from the native plant to the introduced plant, the potato. The tubers of the plant, boiled and roasted, were utilized for food by all the tribes within its range. The abundant growth of vegetation which furnished a food supply to the Omaha and Pawnee prompted the name.

*Kus lecha* or *Kus deca*, according to dialect, was the name by which the Dakota knew the Loup. *Kus deca* means "kingfisher" and *wakpa* is "river"; hence the "Kingfisher River."

From papers recently discovered and translated, Ne-

braska historians believe that the Spanish expedition under Villazur in August, 1720, was annihilated at the junction of the Loup Fork and the Platte, and that the former stream is the one referred to in these documents as the St. Lawrence. A. E. Sheldon writes in *Nebraska History*:

So far as the Creek of St. Lawrence, a veritable river, since the mules could hardly cross it in the month of August, in studying the map of this region, and in comparing the place then inhabited by the Oto, with various distances indicated which otherwise show remarkable agreement, one may, we believe, identify it most surely with the Loup Fork, and the name of this river comes from the surname of the tribe of Loup Indians, which our trappers gave at another time to the later Pani-Maha along its banks.

M. A. Shine says: "It now appears that it was the Loup River that was named St. Lawrence in honor of that famous martyr, whose feast day falls on August tenth." ("The Villazur March," *Nebraska History*, VII [1927], 83)

## V. THE ELKHORN RIVER

It has been said that "the stream was named for *Ta ha zouka*, 'Elk Horn', the first Omaha chief to enter into treaty with Spain." However, this is not an Omaha word, and even with making allowance for the greatest amount of corruption, it cannot be translated "Elk Horn." The Omaha word for "elk" is *onpan*, and *he* signifies "horn." Furthermore there is no record of an Omaha chief of this name who entered into treaty with the whites. The Indian did not name streams for individuals, even though they attained some prominence, unless some important incident in the life of the individual was associated with the stream, and in such cases the commemorating event was incorporated in the name. This we find in the name *Monshewakude uzon ke*, "The-Creek-Where-Monshewakude-Lies," and in *Tenuga sabe wai te*, "The-Creek-Where-Tenugasabe-Planted." The white man

would not name a stream for a chief that never existed, not even in tradition. So this name does not come from the white man. To the Omaha, the stream was known as *Wate*, a name pronounced by Omaha scholars to be archaic and of unknown meaning. The name was evidently used by the Omaha long before any chief of their tribe made a treaty with the whites.

Another explanation of the name states that it is a translation of the name given by the French and was intended to be descriptive of the stream's branching characteristics, resembling the antlers of the male elk or stag. The French called the stream "*Corne de Cerf*," "Horn of the Elk or Stag." Lewis and Clark refer to it as the "*Corne de Cerf*" or "*Elkhorn*." The imagination may be able to discern the similarity by comparing the branches of the stream with the various prongs of the elk's horn. It was this branching characteristic that appealed to the French.

The Dakotas knew the stream as *Wamnuha ota Wakpa*, "Many Snails River," from *wamnuha*, "snails," referring to small shells, such as were used for ornament, *ota*, "many," and *wakpa*, "river."

*Wata tunga* was the name by which the Otoe knew this stream. The meaning of this name has been lost.

The Pawnee name of this stream was *Kits ixta*; *kits*, "water," *ixta*, "moves up (upstream)": "Upstream water."

The name refers to the fact that when a strong wind blows counter to the course of the stream, it blows waves or caps of water back upon the stream and gives the surface the appearance of a reversal of the direction of the water.

(Alexander Lesser; letter to the author dated February 26, 1931)

## VI. THE BIG BLUE RIVER

The Blue is generally referred to as the Big Blue River to distinguish it from its tributary, the Little Blue. It is quite frequently stated that the stream derived its name from the

color of the water before pollution by the wash-in from soil. In one early account reference is made to this characteristic: "A dark blue line stretching along the expanse." A more recent writer states that the Blue "was named from the tint of the waters before the silt from plowed fields changed it to its present murky color."

William B. Connelly of the Kansas State Historical Society reports:

The Blue River was called by the early explorers, traders and trappers the Blue Earth River. This is a European name but must have been derived from an Indian name of the river which meant Blue Earth River. This Indian name is now lost. There must have been some peculiar earth or soil found along this river.

(Letter to the author, August 13, 1927)

Zebulon Pike's original map also contains the name Blue Earth River.

The Big Blue River or Blue Earth River as it was originally called is an affluent of the Kansas. It rises in Nebraska and runs southward into Kansas.

Lorenzo Sawyer, *Way Sketches Across the Plains in 1850*, p. 25.

There were several villages of the Kansas on the forks of that river and the Blue Earth River.

*Publications of the Nebraska State Historical Society*, XX, 3.

It appears that the stream originally derived its name in Kansas from some structural material on its banks, hence the name Blue Earth River. The material held in suspension in the water would discolor it, and so the stream could easily be called the Blue River or the Big Blue, as it is in some of the early reports and also in the Otoe name *Ni haunchi to; ni*, "water" or "stream"; *haunchi*, "big" or "large"; *to*, "blue"; "Big Blue River." The stream seems to have been known by two different names, Blue Earth River and the

Big Blue. The latter name was brought into Nebraska where the clearness of the water and the reflection of the sky associated with the name could easily give rise to the supposition that the stream was named for the color of the water in this state. The Pawnee name of the Little Blue was *Uruz-tareus*, "Blue Mud [River]." This would indicate that at least the name of this affluent of the Big Blue is descriptive of the material associated with the stream in some way, and this idea was expressed in the Pawnee name. The inference, therefore, would be justified, that the name of the parent stream was similarly embodied in the name Blue Earth River, a translation of some other aboriginal name. It was the blue mud or blue earth that appealed to the Pawnee in naming the Little Blue.

The Omaha name of the Big Blue was *Wathutade ni oughthin ke*; *Wahthutade*, the Omaha name of the Otoe; *ni*, "water"; *oughthin*, "dwell"; *ke*, "stream" or "river": "The Stream Where the Otoe Dwell."

*Palani Wakpa uman* *Wakpala* was the Dakota name of this stream: *Palani*, "Pawnee"; *wakpa*, "river" (*Palani Wakpa*, the Dakota name of the Republican); *uman*, "other"; *wakpala*, "creek"; hence, "The Other Pawnee River Creek."

## VII. NAMES OF MINOR STREAMS

### *Personal Names*

Over thirteen hundred names of minor streams are registered, of which more than three hundred are derived from personal names. Indian chiefs have been honored in such names as Whitehorse, Spottedtail and Noheart creeks, names that were given by white men. The largest number of personal names applied to the stream are those of early settlers or members of their families. In a few names, as in Bordeaux, Chadron, Bazile, and Larrabee creeks, we are reminded of early French trappers whose activities centered about these streams. The names of surveyors have been given to some; among these are Fairfield, Schlegel, and Harvey creeks. Lillian and Victoria creeks were named by

Robert Harvey, government surveyor, for two of his nieces. Fremont Slough and Wyeth Creek honor the names of explorers. Augur Creek bears the name of an officer of the United States Army on duty in the vicinity at the time the creek was named, and Lincoln Creek honors the name of the martyred president, the only stream in the state, and probably in the country, thus distinguished.

With but a few exceptions the personal names applied to streams are surnames, such as Wyman, Davis, Swenson, Lohff, and Babcock creeks. Forenames furnished the creek names Felix, Minnie, Logan, Rebecca, Myra, Victoria, and a few others. Al Hopkins and Crandall Hopkins creeks, both in the same vicinity, take the full names of early settlers; nicknames are expressed in Bills, Jims, and Big Ann creeks. The title "Lieutenant," used in connection with an early settler's name, was used in the designation of Lieutenant Creek.

There was no tendency in the state to name streams in honor of celebrated statesmen, military heroes, or other people of note.

### *Names Derived from Animal Life*

The native fauna of the state, and to some extent domestic animal life, are represented in a large number of stream names. In some cases these animals were numerous along streams, or they were the first things that attracted the attention of the namers. In some instances the remains of animals, their horns, bones, or shells, prompted the names. Something indicating their activity, such as the dams or "towns" they built, their watering places or wallows, gave rise to stream names. The names of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and even insects appear in stream nomenclature.

The handsome and ubiquitous deer has been especially favored: no fewer than ten streams bear the name Deer Creek. There is one Whitetail Creek, and Buck Creek commemorates the male of the deer family. The "monarch of the prairie," the buffalo, has left his name upon

ten streams, while his bones and his wallows have added three additional Buffalo Creeks to the map of the state. Eight Beaver Creeks commemorate the beaver and his dams, and one, Sapa Creek, takes the Dakota name for beaver. The elk is perpetuated in eight names, and his horns, found along a stream by early settlers, prompted the name Elkhorn Creek (Rock County). The antelope is represented by six stream names, and in addition two separate streams, Big and Little Antelope creeks, use the name of this animal and words expressing relative size to distinguish them. The popular name of the raccoon found favor when creeks were named, for eight streams are known by the name Coon Creek, while one has appropriated the name Raccoon Fork. The bear has presented us with three Bear Creeks, while its young has left us two Cub Creeks. The wildcat is remembered in the names Wildcat and Cat creeks. The wolf is recalled to our minds by eight stream names. Four Otter Creeks testify to the erstwhile presence of this animal. Wild horses found along streams drew forth the names Wildhorse and Horse creeks. Prairie Dog and Dogtown creeks are named for the animal and its peculiar congregation of homes. An early settler's encounter with what he thought to be a panther explains the origin of the name Panther Creek. The skunk and the fox have each furnished names to two streams. The name Possum Creek was borrowed from the colloquial name of the opossum and appears once among the stream names, as does the name Rabbit Creek.

The use of the names of domestic animals is very limited in Nebraska stream nomenclature. Where such names occur, they often indicate some connection with the grazing industry. Cattle were often referred to as "cows," and we find such usage preserved in terms like "cowboy," "cowmen," "cow town," and "cow outfit." Two streams have thus been named Cow Creek from association with the cattle industry. Calf Creek received its name by connotation; its proximity to a stream called Cow Creek suggested the name.

A similar instance of naming by connotation is found in Mare and Colt creeks, so called on account of their proximity to Horse Creek. A sheep ranch in the vicinity of a stream is responsible for the name Sheep Creek, while Horse Creek indicates the presence of a horse ranch. A stream along which Indians pastured their ponies drew forth the name Pony Creek.

In a few cases it was a trivial circumstance connected with some animal that gave occasion for the name. A crippled steer that wintered along a stream came out in the spring in "fine shape," and this fact explains the origin of the name Steer Creek. A cow left by herders went through a similar experience and fastened the name Cow Creek upon the stream. Dead Horse Creek (Dawes County) owes its name to the finding of a dead horse along its banks.

Among the names of native birds that of the wild turkey has been used the greatest number of times. Nineteen streams are known by the name of Turkey Creek. The wild goose is remembered in four Goose Creeks. Other birds that have left their names upon streams are the wild duck, owl, crow, dove, wild pigeon, and swan. Government surveyors, while engaged in their work in Holt County, named a number of streams after the first thing that struck their fancy: seeing a red bird at one stream, a black bird at another, and an eagle at a third, they placed the names Red-bird, Blackbird, and Eagle creeks on their maps.

Birds that came into the state after its settlement, and such as are found near human habitations or on the prairie away from streams, have not given their names to creeks. There are no streams named for the sparrow, robin, prairie hen, or meadow lark. No domestic fowl has contributed its name to a stream.

The names of fish have made but a small contribution to stream nomenclature. There are a Fish Creek and a Gar Creek; bluegilled sunfish observed in a stream occasioned the name Goldfish Creek. The size of fish in a stream explains the names Sardine, Minnow, and Little Minnie creeks.

The name Mosquito Creek tells of the swarms of mosquitoes found along the stream. The name Butterfly Creek testifies to the presence of butterflies, as does the name Papillion Creek, which the French named. Two Honey Creeks were so named on account of "bee trees" found along their course.

The reptiles are represented by the names Snake and Rattlesnake creeks, and the crustaceans are commemorated by the name Crab Creek.

Finding small shells along a creek, the French named the stream La Petite Coquille; the name was later changed to Muscle Shell Creek and finally to Shell Creek.

### *Names Derived from Vegetation*

Trees and woody brush have furnished over one hundred names for streams. In some cases it was the large number of trees of a special kind that prompted the name; in others it was the presence of certain trees attracting special attention that caused the name. Practically every native tree of the state has left its name on Nebraska streams. Names of trees that have a wide distribution are found most frequently. The cedar is represented by twelve names, the willow and the elm by eleven, the cottonwood and the ash by nine, and the oak by six. There are eight Walnut Creeks in the region along the Missouri and a little to the west and along the lower course of the Niobrara. The honey locust has a limited distribution and its name appears but once, in Honey Creek. The hickory, practically limited to the southeastern part of the state, is represented by but one stream name, as is the hazel bush, by Hazel Creek. The wild crab apple, also very limited in its distribution, has left its name on only one stream, Apple Creek. There is a general correlation between the number of times a tree name occurs and the distribution of the tree; however, there are some exceptions. The hackberry has a wide distribution; still its name was given to only three streams in the state.

The wild cherry, maple, bur oak, pine, and evergreen are

other tree names that have been transferred to streams. Some stream names are translations of names used by the Indians designating vegetation found along water courses, such as Birdwood and Long Pine creeks; in the case of one, Red Willow Creek, the name is a mistranslation, and in another creek of this name it is a matter of wrong identification. The presence of trees is indicated more vaguely in such names as Round Grove, Sylvan, Wood, Timber, Greenwood, Blackwood, Big Timber, and Burntwood creeks. Trees occupying isolated positions brought forth the name Lone Tree Creek in two instances. A stream along which the Indians cut poles for their lodges was called Lodgepole Creek.

Smaller vegetation growing along streams is indicated in the names Big Weedy, Hay, Rose, Rush, and Bead Root creeks. Calamus and Pumpkin creeks are translations from the Dakota, while Wahoo Creek takes its name from an aboriginal word signifying "burning bush."

### *Descriptive Names*

Words descriptive in nature furnished a large contingent of the stream names. They point out some characteristic of the course, bed, banks, size, arrangement, drainage area, or climatic conditions. Some of the names are descriptive only in a general sense.

In order to bring out the idea of the meandering course of a stream, various terms were used. Thus we have ten Crooked Creeks; other names suggestive of the same characteristic are Contrary, Dizzy, Horsehead, Horseshoe, Muleshoe, Oxbow, Bow, and Wiggle creeks.

Characteristics of the water, such as clearness and sparkle, fastened the name Clear Creek on eight streams, and the name Clearwater Creek was given to three. Other names pointing out the same quality in the water are Crystal, Pearl, Lookingglass, and Silver creeks; the last name occurs eight times in Nebraska stream nomenclature. The color of the water is described in the names Blue or Bluewater (Garden County), White, Black, and Whiskey creeks.

The turbidity of the water is expressed in the names Muddy (occurring nine times), Miry, Nasty, and Dirty creeks. Cold-water Creek, Cool Creek, and Warm Slough are descriptive of thermal conditions of the water. The odor emanating from the carcasses of buffalo that mired in the mud along a stream induced the Indians to call the stream by a name that has been translated as Stinkingwater Creek. Rate of flow is indicated in the name Rapid Creek.

Names intended to convey the nature of the bed or banks or materials are Rock Creek, a name that occurs fourteen times, and Sand Creek, used thirteen times. Three Pebble Creeks and two Gravel Creeks are also named for materials found in the beds of the streams. The names Mud Creek (used seven times) and Black Mud Creek describe the nature of the bed or banks, as do the names Chalk, White Clay, White Paint, and Verdigris creeks. Whitehead Creek was so named because of the white earth at its headwaters. Lime Creek takes its name from limestone found in its banks, and the two Coal Creeks derive their name in a similar manner. The nature of the stream valley in relation to the surrounding terrain is brought out in the name Deep Creek.

Size and length were uppermost in the minds of the men who christened Big, Four Mile, One Mile, Long, Petite, Pickaninny, and Bobtail creeks. The arrangement of seven small streams in close proximity prompted the collective name Seven Creeks.

Rainfall conditions are indicated by thirty Dry Creeks and seven Lost Creeks. The names Dry and Wet Spotted-tail Creeks commemorate by the attributive noun a noted Indian chief, and by the two adjectives diverse rainfall conditions.

Dismal River and Prairie Creek are names intended primarily to describe the drainage area.

#### *Names Derived from Springs and Relief Features*

Some streams have taken their names from other bodies of water associated with them. A large number of our

smaller streams are spring fed; over thirty of these have on this account been named Spring Creek. The name by which a spring was known was in some cases transferred to the stream, as in Spottedtail Springs and Big Springs creeks. Rock Springs Creek was so named because springs issuing from rock supplied it with water. The name Slough Creek expresses a swampy condition.

Relief features in the vicinity of which or through which streams flow explain the names Bluff, Box Butte, Castle, Hill, North Bluff, North Table, Trunk Butte, Point of Rocks, Birdcage, Pass, Flat, and Basin creeks.

### *Names Derived from Cultural Features*

Some streams have taken their names from neighboring cultural features. There are not many names of this origin, and those which are found denote the smaller streams. Streams were usually named before the cultural features were established.

Two streams, Cuming and Holt creeks, derived their names from counties. Relative location within its county is indicated by the name of Center Creek.

The names of nearby towns or post offices have been appropriated by Calhoun, Frankfort, Spencer, Kenosha, and Tekamah creeks.

Direction from some town is expressed in the names North and South creeks, while Thirty-two Mile, Eight Mile, Five Mile, and Four Mile creeks are names given to denote the distance from some cultural point such as a fort, town, or temporary settlement.

Half Breed Creek owes its name to its location in the Half Breed Tract set aside by the Treaty of Prairie du Chien for the halfbreeds belonging to certain Indian tribes.

Educational institutions are responsible for the names College and School creeks. Industrial establishments along certain streams are pointed out in the names Mill, Whiskey (Nemaha County), and Limekiln creeks. Cloverdale Creek borrowed its name from a neighboring ranch, while Scout

Creek appropriated a part of the name of Scouts Rest Ranch, established by Colonel William F. Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill.

The remains of a chimney of a log cabin which formerly stood beside a stream drew forth the name Chimney Creek. Dugouts found along two streams in the same county, both tributaries of the North Platte, prompted the names Upper and Lower Dugout creeks.

Meridian Creek was named for its location along the sixth principal meridian, and Line Creek was so named because it rises near the Kansas-Nebraska boundary.

### *Commemorative Names*

Incidents associated with early pioneer life, some of them of a rather trivial nature, were commemorated in stream names, as were also reminiscences of Indian life and the military history of the state.

The name Soap Creek appears twice on the map of Nebraska. The name in one instance was applied because of the accidental spilling of soft soap by a pioneer woman, and in the other the name was applied because a keg of soap fell out of the wagon into the stream while travelers were crossing the creek.

An early settler accidentally fell into a stream, and as a result of the drenching he received his companions named the small body of water Soak Creek.

Some names call to mind other difficulties encountered in crossing streams. The name Rope Creek is suggestive of such. The banks of the stream were steep, and ropes were used to haul wagons across the creek; hence the name. The name Tip Over Creek tells what sometimes happened to wagons on such occasions. A wagon tongue, breaking from a wagon while crossing a stream and left in the steep bank, gave rise to the name of Wagon Tongue Creek. The muddy condition of the bed and banks of a small stream caused difficulties which induced an early settler who crossed it frequently on his way to Omaha to call it Hell Creek, a name that remains to the present day.

The accidental or intentional spilling of powder into a stream produced the name Powder Creek. The top of a pepper can accidentally came off while the cook for a cow outfit was seasoning the mulligan, and the peppery condition of the meal was in the minds of the cattlemen when they applied the name Pepper Creek to the stream on whose banks the incident occurred.

A stream flowing through a grove in which the early settlers held picnics and where they drank coffee received the name Coffee Creek. A flag fastened to a high tree for want of a pole during the first Fourth of July celebration by a colony in Harlan County gave the name Flag Creek to the stream by which the celebration was held.

A woman living near a small creek in Lancaster County made cottage cheese and sold it to travelers, and the stream was afterwards referred to by the name of Cheese Creek.

Two Death Creeks and Dead Mans Run owe their names to the finding of the bodies of murdered persons there.

Neighborhood conflicts originated the names of two Bloody Creeks—names given primarily in the spirit of fun, as were the names Fracas Creek and Hadar Creek. Along the last-named stream a number of Germans had some disagreement, and they afterwards referred to the creek as *Haderwasser*, a word found in the German Bible (Numbers 20:13). *Wasser* is the German word for "water," and *Hader* denotes "strife," "quarrel," or "conflict." The latter part of the term was translated into "creek" by English-speaking people; they retained the German first element but changed its spelling, perhaps confusing the word with Hadar, a king of Edom named in Genesis 36:39.

While Robert Harvey was on a surveying expedition along a stream, Indians were observed. The party had no guns, so they took some corner stakes and marched about. They were not attacked, and no blood was shed; Harvey, in a spirit of mixed whimsy and relief, put the name Bloody Creek upon his map. Tepee Creek was so named by him on account of finding some Indian tepees along it while making

a government survey. Along another stream he cached his provisions and therefore named the stream Cache Creek. While his party was surveying in Holt County, their clothes became infected, and Harvey ordered a clean-up along a certain stream which since has borne the name Louse Creek.

According to an unauthenticated tradition, Rawhide Creek received its name during the California gold rush because a white man who had murdered an Indian woman was flayed alive on its banks. The story has several versions, all equally without verification.

The two Council Creeks owe their names to the fact that councils were held there between government representatives and the Indians.

Two Soldier Creeks denote places where soldiers spent their leisure hours, while a third received this name because soldiers were camped there when a surveying party arrived and named the stream.

Dead Horse Creek commemorates an incident connected with the blizzard of 1873. A troop of cavalry was compelled to abandon its mounts near a small stream. The horses perished in the snowstorm, and their carcasses floated down the creek when the snow melted in the spring.

During the Pawnee War soldiers in pursuit of Indians came upon them near a small stream. No battle occurred, as the Indians yielded to the demands of the whites. Nevertheless, the stream took the name of Battle Creek.

Whistle Creek is a name reminiscent of an incident in the lives of a party of Dakotas. The name is a translation from the language of these people. According to tradition, a party of hunters were overtaken by a snowstorm near the head of this creek while on the way to their camp on the Niobrara. They had found no game and were hungry. While huddled under a little bluff trying to shelter themselves from the storm, they heard someone whistling their war song. The whistler was one of their own tribe, crazed and benumbed by the storm. While getting this man into their sheltered place, they happened to stumble over the half-

decayed carcass of an old bull. The party ate the meat, were taken violently ill, and all died but two.

Early settlers, finding numerous skulls and other bones of Indians along two streams, named them Skull Creek and Bone Creek respectively.

A number of our stream names were derived by translation from their aboriginal forms. In translating the aboriginal names mistakes were frequently made; this is particularly true with words denoting "spirit," "ghost," "mysterious," "sacred," "holy," and "medicine." Thus Medicine Creek is an inexact translation from the Dakota *Ble wakan wakpala*, meaning "Mysterious Lake Creek" (from *ble*, "lake," *wakan*, "mysterious," "sacred," or "supernatural," and *wakpala*, "creek"). The Dakota word for "medicine" is *pezuta*.

Sun Creek was named by white men because the Indians held their sun dance along this stream. The various streams having the name of Indian Creek owe the name to the fact that Indians camped, hunted, trapped, or fought along such streams.

The following stream names given by white men commemorate tribes that once lived or hunted in the various localities: Aowa (Iowa), Arickaree, Kiowa, Omaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Ponca, Sioux, Skidi, and Winnebago creeks, and the Loup and Republican rivers. The following names derived from the languages of Nebraska Indian tribes are still on the map: Keya Paha, Wambaduzza, Minihaha, Minichaduzza, Koshkopa, and Nemaha.

### *Miscellaneous Sources of Stream Names*

The nationality of early settlers is indicated by the names Bohemian, Dane, Dutch, Dutchman, French, Frenchman, Norwegian, Scotch, and Swiss creeks. Peedee Creek was so named because the early settlers along the stream were Pennsylvania Dutch and were referred to as "P.D.'s." Yankee Creek (Johnson County) was named humorously; the settlers on its banks were for the most part Irish. The

names Hoosier Creek (two of these), New York Creek, Louisa Creek, and Star Creek refer to former places of residence of the first settlers. Star Creek was so named on account of its similarity to its namesake in Iowa, and Louisa Creek was named for Louisa County in the same state.

Names denoting religious tendencies of early settlers are borne by Methodist and Holiness creeks, while Mission Creek received its name from the fact that a mission was established on its banks. Patriotic and optimistic sentiments are expressed in the names Liberty Creek and Eureka Creek. Farmers Creek is an occupational name, indicating that the early settlers of the region were farmers. Bay State Creek and Horsehead Creek (Thurston County) were named for organizations, the former for a cattle company and the other for an Indian society on the Omaha Reservation.

Whitemans Creek is a translation of an Indian name. The Indian name was given because a white man lived on the bank of this stream. This white man happened to be a Frenchman, so the creek was also referred to as Frenchman Creek, the name by which it is now known.

A number of early settlers living along a stream in Dakota County were adept with the violin and frequently entertained their neighbors. The stream thus became known as Fiddlers Creek.

### *Names of Smaller Tributaries*

As parents give their names to their children, so tributary streams often take the name of the parent stream. These names are compounds of the name of the main stream and words showing relation to the main stream. The idea that the stream is an affluent is brought out by such terms as "branch," "fork," and "prong," and some word referring to size or location is used for further distinction. Such names are North Branch Verdigris Creek, Middle Branch Verdigris Creek, North Fork Elkhorn River, Little Chadron Creek, and Long Branch Yankee Creek.

*Bends in Streams*

Several bends in streams have received special names. These may refer to some historical event, as in Indian Bend. The name may also be indicative of shape, as in Horseshoe Bend and Double S Bend, or of size, as in Big Bend. Then again the name may suggest the northernmost or southernmost bend in a stream, as in North Bend and South Bend. Finally, the bend may take the name of some early settler, as in Boyds, Burtons, and Lockwood bends.

*Different Names for the Same Streams*

Quite a number of streams are known by different names on different maps. Such differences occur not only in the appellative part but also in the descriptive. Cedar Creek is sometimes called Cedar River, and Beaver Creek is occasionally called Beaver River. Birdwood Creek appears on certain government maps under the name of Teepee Creek, while the Mormon pioneers of 1847 placed the name North Bluff Creek on the maps. Apple Creek and Steele Creek are used for the same stream. In some cases names were changed for the sake of brevity; Crabwater Creek became Crab Creek; Bluewater Creek became Blue Creek; Lodgepole Creek is often referred to as Pole Creek; Two Squaws Creek is now called Squaw Creek, and Silver Fish Creek became Silver Creek. Supposedly inappropriate and vulgar names were replaced by such names as College Creek, Carver Creek, and Spring Creek. Streams bearing personal names were sometimes changed when persons for whom they had been named moved away; thus Barker Creek became Murrin Creek.

Many of the names of streams were given without special design; they, like Topsy, simply "grewed," although they all had a meaning. At first a body of water would be referred to simply as "the creek" or "the branch." When it became necessary to distinguish, reference was made to "the creek where certain people lived," "the branch where certain trees

were found," and so forth. Gradually such references led to definite names.

The streams were named by Indians, explorers, trappers, travelers passing through the state, early settlers, ranchmen, and surveyors.

#### VIII. NAMES OF LAKES, MARSHES, AND SWAMPS

The term "marsh" is popularly used to denote a tract of wet and soft ground. The term "swamp" occurs but a few times in Nebraska and is used in the same sense as "marsh." There is no sharp line of distinction drawn between these terms in the nomenclature of the state. The names of lakes, like those of streams, were given without special design. They were mostly inspired by some striking characteristic or incident that appealed to the namers, or they were named after the owner or a person residing near them. In cases where personal names were applied, these did not, as a rule, originate with the persons for whom the lakes were named but were given by neighbors.

Nebraska has about one thousand lakes. The nomenclature of these is mainly derived from personal names. The lakes of the state are not of such size and importance as to have been set aside as parts of the public domain. Their ownership is associated with the ownership of the land of which they form a part, and thus we find the owner's name attached to his lake, or the name of some person living near it or whose name is associated with the lake in some other way. Personal names entering into the nomenclature of lakes may be classified as follows: family or surnames, given names, compounds of given and family names, nicknames, compounds of family names and some qualifying word, and names referring to the religion or the race of the owner of the lake.

People are most generally known by their family or surnames, and thus we find that about eighty per cent of the lakes bear family names, such as Webster, Bowering, Hiers,

Hofeld, and Hornberger lakes. This shows the strength of the tendency to use family names in lake nomenclature.

In a few cases where persons were better known by their given names, these were applied to the lakes, as in Eva, George, and Marys lakes.

Compound names consisting of both given name and surname were applied to seventeen lakes of the state, either to distinguish one lake from another in cases where two persons of the same family name owned different lakes, as in the names of such lakes as D. Briggs and T. Briggs, C. W. Herian and Ed Herian, or when persons were generally referred to by their full names, as in Anna Jesse, Flora Baylis, and Pete Knuteson lakes.

When people were generally known by their nicknames, these were applied to such lakes as Shig, Dads, Big Swede, and Doc.

The family name together with a word suggesting some station in life prompted such names as Widow Preston Lake and Granny Hanson Lake. When the family name was given to different lakes, often some qualifying word denoting direction or size was used to distinguish one lake from another; such is the case with East and West Cody, East and West Hill, and Little and Big Buck lakes.

The names Jew and Negro lakes refer to the religion and race respectively of the owners of the lakes so named.

The names Cheyenne Lake and Santee Lake are reminiscent of Indian tribes of Nebraska. Moon Lake was named for an Indian chief. The name Indian Lake was given for the aboriginal people of Nebraska without reference to any specific tribe.

Most of the lakes were named for their owners, as pointed out above. Others were named for early settlers near them; a few, such as Fairfield and Stephenson lakes, were named for surveyors. In some cases lakes were named for members of the family of the owner, as in Doris Lake, Lake Hazel, and Lake Helen. Lake Alice was named for Alice Roosevelt, daughter of Theodore. Doc Lake (Grant

County) was named for the notorious "Doc" Middleton, who had a varied career as cattle rustler, gambler, and performer in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, and died in a Wyoming jail in 1913 while under sentence for bootlegging.

### *Names Derived from Animal Life*

The wild animals of the state have given their names to a number of lakes. The mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles represented were found in, on, or near the bodies of water to which they gave their names. In some cases, fish were introduced into the lakes (Bass and Trout lakes), and occasionally a name was the result of erroneous identification of the fish at the time the lake was named. Such an instance is Perch Lake in Rock County.

Prevalence of a certain type of wild animal was not always the source of the name. Sometimes its appearance at the time struck the fancy of the namer, or some incident connected with the animal prompted the name. A jack rabbit, being the first thing to attract particular attention near a lake in Cherry County, suggested the name of Jack Rabbit Lake. When Robert Harvey's party was surveying in Cherry County, a red deer was killed and eaten, and this incident caused the surveyor to put the name Red Deer Lake on his map.

Among the mammals the muskrat has given its name to the greatest number of lakes. The name "Muskrat" appears once as a lake name, while the popular name of the animal is the designation for six Rat Lakes. The prevalence of this animal in the sandhill lakes accounts for the frequent use of the name in lake nomenclature. Cherry County has five of the lakes thus named, indicating that conditions of habitat are favorable for the animal in that county. The name Wolf Lake occurs five times, thrice in Cherry County and once each in Garden and Rock counties. Other lakes that have been named for wild mammals are Beaver, Buffalo, Cat (for the bobcat), Coyote, Deer, Fawn, Otter,

and Skunk lakes. Dogtown Marsh was named for a prairie dog town near it.

Among the wild bird life, the goose has given its name to the greatest number of lakes. The name Goose Lake occurs eight times in the state, three times in Cherry County and once each in Garden, Holt, Morrill, Rock, and Sheridan counties. Two Duck Lakes, one Redhead, one Mallard, and one Spoonbill Lake in Cherry County are the wild duck's contributions to Nebraska lake nomenclature. There are five Swan Lakes. Curlew, Crane, and Pelican are other lakes that have been named for wild birds.

Two lakes have been named Fish Lake. Names of specific fish include the following: Bass, Bullhead, Carp, Perch, Sunfish, and Trout lakes.

Lizard Lake and Rattlesnake Lake have been named for reptiles.

Domestic animals also have given their names to several lakes. A black steer that had caused some trouble in a roundup near a certain lake in Garden County prompted the name of Black Steer Lake. Cowboys left a lame steer at a body of water, and this drew forth the name Lame Steer Lake. Mavericks (unbranded cattle) found along the shores of a lake prompted the name Maverick Lake. Mule and Dead Cow lakes in Cherry County were so named by an early ranchman because a mule died at the former and a cow at the latter lake. Bull Lake was a watering place for a bull herd and hence derived its name. Horse Lake was named for a horse ranch in that region. Bronco Lake was used as a watering place for broncos during the roundup, and Wild Horse Lake was used as a designation in the roundup of wild horses.

### *Names Derived from Vegetation*

Vegetation growing in the lakes or on their borders attracted the fancy of the early settlers and evoked a number of lake names. However, this number is small compared to the number of streams that have derived their names from

this source. Tree growth in the lake region of the state is sparse in comparison to what it is in the eastern part of Nebraska along the stream courses, and this fact is reflected in the comparative paucity of tree names.

The cottonwood tree has given its name to five lakes, one each in Cherry, Garfield, Holt, Loup, and McPherson counties. The tree is widely distributed over the state and this accounts for its use as a lake name. The willow has suggested the names of four lakes in the state, in Brown, Cherry, Garden, and Holt counties. What are popularly called the red and white willows have given names to Red Willow and White Willow lakes in Cherry County. The cedar has contributed two lake names, and the hackberry and the pine one each. A single tree standing beside a lake in Cherry County prompted the name of Lone Tree Lake. Such names as Shady, Greenwood, and Wood lakes suggest the presence of tree growth without mentioning specific trees. A stump discovered by ranchmen on the shores of a lake in Arthur County is responsible for the name of Stump Lake. The names Little and Big Cedar lakes were used to distinguish lakes with similar tree growth about them.

Smaller vegetation has also been a source of lake names in this state. Rushes growing in lakes have given the name of Rush Lake to seven bodies of water in Arthur, Cherry, Garden, Holt, Morrill, Wheeler, and Sheridan counties. Other names suggestive of vegetation are Wild Carico, Brush, Grass, Hay, Marsh, Nettle Patch, Rosebud, and Sunflower lakes.

### *Descriptive Names*

Quite a number of the lake names are descriptive of some condition of the water, bed, shores, size, or configuration of the lakes.

The color of the water brought forth such names as Blue, Coffee, Green, and Whitewater lakes. Clearness or absence of color prompted the name Clear Lake, which occurs seven times, indicating a strong appeal. Five lakes in Cherry

County have this name and one each in Brown and Rock counties. The idea of clearness and the sparkle of the water is expressed in the names Silver Lake and Crystal Lake.

Deep Lake received the name from the unusual depth of its water.

Material held in suspension and producing turbidity of the water, arising from the nature of the bed and shores of lakes, is a condition common enough so that the name of Mud Lake occurs six times on our map. The names Little Mud Lake and Big Mud Lake in the same vicinity add the idea of comparative size to distinguish one from the other.

Some lakes have been named from the noticeable presence or absence of hydrominerals. Eight lakes in the state are known by the name of Alkali Lake, Cherry County and Garden County having two each of this name; the name occurs once in Arthur, Brown, Logan, and Sheridan counties. The names Little Alkali Lake and Big Alkali Lake indicate a condition of the water and the comparative size of these two lakes. Soda Lake also takes its name from material held in solution. The distribution of the names of this category indicates the section of the state where such conditions as are embodied in the names prevail. The noticeable absence of hydrominerals finds expression in the names Sweetwater Lake and Fresh Lake.

The nature of the bed or banks of lakes suggests a number of names. The name Sand Lake appears in Garden, Hooker, and Sheridan counties; the name Sandbeach Lake is found on the maps of Cherry, Garden, and McPherson counties. These names are found in the section of the state where sand is a common surface material. Shell Lake receives its name from the snail and clam shells seen at the bottom of the lake through its clear water. The steepness of the approach to a lake necessitated the use of ropes in letting wagons down the incline, and this condition gave rise to the name Windlass Lake. Dry Lake was so named because the bed of the lake at times contains no water. Echo Lake, an artificial body of water, received this design-

nation from the fact that before the water was let into the ravine an echo was produced from the banks or hills along its sides.

The size and the arrangement of lakes have given rise to a few names of lakes. Little Lake was so named on account of its size, and the name Threemile Lake denotes the length of this body of water. Where two lakes were in close proximity and of approximately the same shape or size, the name Twin Lakes was applied in six Nebraska counties. The arrangement of lakes in groups suggestive of the links in a chain prompted the name of Chain Lakes. Mother Lake took its name from the fact that it is of considerable size and in the midst of a number of smaller lakes, like a mother among her children.

Over thirty lakes have names descriptive of shape. Six of these were named Long Lake on account of their length compared with their width, and an equal number were named Round Lake; four of these are in Cherry County. The name Horseshoe Lake appears three times; Square Lake and L Lake appear twice. Other names referring to configuration are Bobtail, Crescent, Diamond, Three-Cornered, Dome, Gimlet, Gooseneck, Heart, Punchbowl, and Slim lakes.

### *Names Derived from Cultural Features*

Cultural features have not contributed many lake names. Towns and post offices in the vicinity of lakes have occasioned the names Blyburg, Eli, Florence, Champion, Ericson, Crawford, and Pibel lakes. Peru Swamp bears the name of the town near it.

Buildings on the shores of lakes have caused the naming of Club House Lake and Cottonwood Lake. School Marsh was named for a schoolhouse near it.

Cattle brands have furnished the names Diamond Bar, Twenty-one, K. C., S. B., S. S. S., Turkey Track, and Mule-foot lakes.

The location of lakes on homesteads or tree claims has given rise to the names Homestead Lake and Tree Claim

Lake. Distance from the home ranch or proximity to it was expressed in the names Twomile Lake and Home Lake.

Wickyville Swamp took its name from a nearby cowboy camp resembling a city (*ville*) of wickyups, the elliptical huts built by several Indian tribes.

The number of the section of land on which a lake was located was used as a designation in the names of Thirty-one Lake and Thirty-six Lake. In the original surveying of townships and precincts in Nebraska, as in most of the Midwest and West, sections 16 and 36 were set aside for school purposes, and such sections are frequently known as school sections. Three lakes received the name School Lake for location on such sections.

Railroad Lake was so named on account of its location along a railroad. Post Lake was so designated because it was a camping place on the trail to the western government forts or posts.

A lake fed by a flowing well was called Flowing Well Lake.

### *Commemorative Names*

The lake names that are commemorative in origin are mostly associated with ranch life. This is quite natural as most lakes are in the ranching region of the state. These names, as a rule, were applied by the early ranchmen and are associated with the industry directly or suggest some incident occurring at or near the lakes.

Bean Soup Lake was given this name by early cowboys who had to subsist on bean soup, as other provisions were scarce. While a cook at another lake was preparing a pudding, the wind blew sand into it, and the incident was commemorated in the name Sandpudding Lake.

Round-up Lake names the place near which the roundup of cattle took place, and Split Lake the place where cattle were sorted by the various outfits in the roundups. Storm Lake and Thunder Lake are names descriptive of weather

experienced near these lakes. The two Camp Lakes mark camping places for cow outfits.

A number of tin cans found near a lake in Sheridan County and marking the place where the mess or "grub" wagon had stood suggested the name of Tin Can Lake. Dipping Vat Lake was named for an old dipping vat near a corral of this lake, and a calving pasture near another lake is responsible for the name Hospital Lake. A scull found on the banks of a lake gave rise to the name of Scull Lake. Box Lake was so called by the cowboys because they sank a well here and boxed it.

Three stacks of hay were put up by early ranchmen near a lake in Arthur County, and this suggested the name of Three Stack Lake.

A stench arising from decaying animal and vegetable matter from a lake that went dry caused the cowboys to apply the name Stink Lake.

A cowboy found an Indian skeleton near a lake in Brown County and named the lake Skull Lake, while another lake of the same name was so called from the discovery of a buffalo skull on its shores.

A wagon train belonging to the firm of Foley and Senter of North Platte was hauling government supplies through the sandhills. The cattle that were used as draft animals had been without water for some time. When approaching the lake, the cattle stampeded and ran into it, wagons and all. From this incident the lake took the name of the freighting firm, Foley and Senter.

### *Names Derived from Other Sources*

A lake that contained an island was named Island Lake. Upper Hog Island Lake and Lower Hog Island Lake were given these names because of their location relative to Hog Island.

The presence of springs has given the name Spring Lake to seven lakes. Three lakes have derived their names from

streams: Medicine Lake, Minichaduza Lake, and Squaw Lake.

Two lakes bearing aboriginal names imported from other places are Minatare Lake and Lake Quinnebaugh.

Center, Middle, Lower, and Upper Twin, North and South Twin, and East and West Cottonwood Lakes are names that denote location relative to other lakes.

The following lakes were named for the valleys in which they are located: Cherry Valley, Camp Valley, Home Valley, Buckboard, Sunnyside, Windmill, and North and South Valley lakes.

The idea of isolated location was brought out in the name of Solitaire Lake.

Some lakes have changed names, and some are still known by two names. The change is a reflection of change in ownership. Chapin Lake became Ambler Lake; Chester Lake is now Hagan Lake; Palmer Lake became Reed Lake; and Braugh Lake is now Liston Lake.

The lakes were named by ranchmen, early settlers, potash companies, and men connected with the soil survey. A few of the larger lakes were named by government surveyors.

## IX. NAMES OF SPRINGS AND FALLS

A large proportion of the names of springs are descriptive. The name may give a general description, as in Eden Springs, in which an implied comparison with the Biblical garden is used, to emphasize the idea of its beauty.

The name Agate Springs names an associated structure, while Golden Springs describes the color of the Dakota sandstone from which the water issues, and Mud Springs is descriptive of the immediate environment.

Characteristics of the water prompted some names; thus the bubbling nature of the flow found expression in the name Boiling Springs, while Dripping Springs is descriptive of seepage. The name Cold Springs indicates a thermal condition of the water. The odor emanating from the water

of another spring was thought to be similar to that of sulphur and drew forth the name Sulphur Springs.

Size and length are expressed in the names Big and Long Springs. Coyote, Cottonwood, and Hay Springs name associated animal or plant life. Location relative to a stream is expressed in the name Blue Springs. East Springs names a direction from a larger spring. Dugout Springs takes its name from a dugout located near the springs. A cattle brand supplied the name for Four-Jay Springs. A meteorological condition furnished the name for Wind Springs; it was situated in a draw through which the wind blew briskly. Cavalry Springs is so named because a troop of cavalry camped there.

Personal names furnished a large number of spring names. In most cases it was the surname that was chosen, as in Hoxie, Radcliffe, and Zimmerman Springs. Victoria Springs takes a given name, while Big Ann Springs appropriates a nickname.

Sky Chief Springs honors the name of an Indian chief; it was named in commemoration of the Pawnee chief who was killed in the Battle of Massacre Canyon. Fremont Springs is reminiscent of the great Pathfinder, who camped there. Winters Springs was named for a Mormon woman who died enroute to Utah and who was buried in the vicinity.

The springs are largely in the ranch country and were used by the early ranchmen as watering places for cattle. The ranchmen named most of the springs; others were named by early settlers, surveyors, and travelers who also used the springs.

The names of falls are mostly of a descriptive nature and were applied by early settlers. Big and Little Falls are expressive of size, while shape furnished the reason for the names of Corkscrew and Horseshoe Falls. Cedar, Harvey, Nemaha, Schlegel, and Snake Falls derive their names from the streams in which they are located, while Fort Falls takes its name from the former Fort Niobrara in the vicinity.

Personal names of settlers were transferred to Perry, Sears, Smith, and Steinard Falls.

Arickaree Falls was named for an Indian tribe. Wauneta Falls was named for a favorite song of an early settler, the spelling being altered from "Juanita" to "Wauneta" to agree with that of the name of the neighboring post office.

## NAMES OF RELIEF FEATURES

The relief features of the state are of two classes, the positive and the negative. The positive represent land forms which are associated with elevation on the earth's crust, while the negative are depressions.

### I. NAMES OF POSITIVE FEATURES

The positive features have been designated by various appellative terms. Early explorers, travelers, and settlers applied them, and they have been retained. These people were sometimes indiscriminate in the use of their appellatives and did not or could not make the technical distinctions made by the geographer or geologist. The following terms were used: "mountain," "butte," "hill," "rock," "peak," "mound," "bluff," "cliff," "point," "banks," "headland," "volcano," "ridge," "knob," "table," and "terrace." Sometimes the generic term was omitted.

The term "mountain" was used in several instances to denote conspicuously high elevation. It was also applied where height or altitude did not warrant the use of the term. "Butte" is a term of French origin and is used in the western part of the United States to designate characteristic erosional remnants of tables or mesas. Peculiar geological structure gives rise to these isolated or detached hills, having precipitous sides and often being carved into fanciful figures. The term occurs in the western and in the northern parts of the state, where climatic and geological conditions make such relief features possible. The name "bluff" is confined in use also to the western part of the United States, and is employed to designate a prominence with steep sides, consisting of unconsolidated material but having the semblance of solidarity. Bluffs are found along some of our stream courses, but the term is also used where structural material would not fit the technical definition. "Headland" is used as a translation from the Pawnee, in which language the equivalent word denotes a high precipitate bank next

to the water. The term "volcano," where used, has been incorrectly applied.

### *Descriptive Names*

The largest number of names in this group is descriptive. It was some characteristic of shape that offered a strong appeal. Allegories and metaphors were frequently used in creating these descriptive terms. The similarity that some of these are intended to convey is not always easily recognized; it sometimes requires a considerable stretch of the imagination and even suggestion to discern it. Among the names intended to emphasize shape are Giants Coffin, Giants Thumb, Squaws Tit, Chimney Rock, Castle Rock, Court House Rock, Box Butte, Saddle Butte, Smokestack Rock, Steamboat Rock, Coliseum Rocks, Barn Butte, Trunk Butte, and Tater Hill. The name Sugar Loaf was intended to describe shape and color, while the name Solitary Tower denotes shape and isolated location.

This great variety of names suggests the various grotesque forms of relief and indicates no paucity of imagination on the part of those responsible for this nomenclature.

The nature of the summit furnished the motive for a number of names that give expression to color, shape, or absence of vegetation, as the names Bald Peak, Old Baldy, Ragged Top, Table Rock, Flat Top, White Cap, and White Cliffs testify.

Names intended to be descriptive of material, its color and structure, include Blue Point, Yellow Banks, Iron Bluffs, Sandy Bluffs, Stone Buttes, and Rock Bluffs.

Poverty Ridge is a name that described the financial condition of the settlers living there. The soil was somewhat sandy and the rainfall at times not sufficient to produce good crops. However, with the introduction of irrigation from wells, conditions improved, and the name has been changed to Prosperity Ridge.

Extreme ruggedness is implied in the name Devils Nest. The nature of the slopes inspired the names Break Neck

Hill and Devils Slide, while a sharp turn in a road over a hill gave rise to the name Devils Turntable.

Prominence and relative height prompted such names as King Hill, Queen Hill, Lookout Mountain, Pilot Knob, and Guide Rock. Arrangement is responsible for the names Five Points, Twin Buttes, Twin Mounds, and Twin Sisters. A natural opening in a rock inspired the christening of Tunnel Rock.

### *Commemorative Names*

Among the names that are commemorative of Indian association are those of former chiefs, such as Red Cloud Buttes, Elk Hill, and Blackbird Hill. Tribal names are indicated in Crow Butte, Pawnee Rock, Santee Bluffs, and Sioux Lookout. The latter name, together with Indian Hill, Signal Bluff, Signal Butte, and Lookout Mound, indicate observation points used by Indians. Squaw Mound, bearing an aboriginal name not belonging to a language of the natives of Nebraska, was so named on account of being used by Indian women to watch a battle. Pohoco Headland is associated with the history of the Pawnee. It was their holy hill which they referred to as *Pahaku*, which has been corrupted into Pohoco by the white man.

Like many other states, Nebraska has its Lovers Leap and Maidens Leap—three of the former and one of the latter. Prominences with steep walls are quite frequently given such names, and then some "Indian" legend is invented to account for the name; the legends have generally the same content, that of love's young dreams finding a tragic end. At Buffalo Leap, tradition says, buffalo were stampeded over a precipice by Indian hunters.

The name Scotts Bluff commemorates a sad incident in the history of the American fur trade. It honors a trapper by the name of Hiram Scott, who, deserted by his comrades, met a tragic death at the foot of this mountain.

Fremonts Point and Lewis and Clark Point were named for the well-known explorers.

Council Bluff, of Lewis and Clark fame, Council Rock, Calumet Hill, and Calumet Bluffs are named for places where Indians and whites held councils and made treaties. At Council Hill early settlers held council to decide upon a place of settlement.

Cowboy Hill and Lookout Mound were used by cowboys in locating cattle, Indians, and rustlers. Boot Hill contains a cemetery where cowboys and desperadoes who died "with boots on" were buried. Pool Hill is said to mark a place where cowboys gambled.

Sixty-six Mountain is said to commemorate a battle between immigrants and Indians in which sixty-six immigrants were killed.

However, the Battle of Sixty-six Mountain has not been verified. Most of the early ranchmen assume that the cattle brand brought into use the name. Phil and Jim Dater, however, who came up the trail in 1872 and established the ranch, adopted the name because the mountain already had the name. There is as much confusion of opinion as to the origin of the name as there is mystery connected with the events that are related.

(Grant Shumway, *History of Western Nebraska*, II, 2)

Old Glory marks the place where early settlers celebrated Independence Day. Rustlers Roost was a rendezvous for cattle thieves. A table on which the mail carrier stopped for the night was designated as Stop Table. Piety Ridge was so named on account of the religious tendencies of the early settlers in the vicinity.

### *Names Derived from Cultural Features*

Cultural features nearby or in some other way associated with elevations prompted a few names. Bunker Hill was named for a local school; Carnegie and University Hills were named for Carnegie Institute of Technology and the University of Nebraska respectively, and mark places where those institutions made studies in the paleontology of the

state. Ionia Volcano was named for a nearby town. It was also known as Nebraska Volcano, taking the name of the state. Capitol Hill marks the site of a former capitol. Kearney Hill received its name from the original Fort Kearny; the spelling was later altered to conform with that of the city. Shingles were made at Shingle Point. On Gospel Hill a tabernacle was built in the early days. O'Fallons Bluff took its name from a ranch station on the Oregon Trail. California Hill took its name from California Crossing, where the trail of this name crossed the South Platte River. A stage road from Gering to Kimball crossed a hill which became known as Stage Hill. Garfield Table received its name from a post office.

### *Names Derived from Other Sources*

Location relative to some physical features finds expression in the names of East, West, North, and South Tables; the former two denote direction from some well-known flats, and the latter two denote direction from a stream.

Streams have given names to Blue Hill, Sapa Hill, and Shell Creek Terrace.

Jail Rock received its name by connotation; its proximity to Court House Rock accounts for the name.

Nationality or former residence of early settlers accounts for the names Canada Hill, Swede Hills, and German Table. French Table was so named because the early Belgian settlers spoke the French language. Moses Hill was named for Mose Backe of Sweden. Former residence of the pioneers accounts for the following names: Iowa Ridge, Missouri Ridge, Madison Square, Rock Island Table, and Ryno Table. Yankee Hill was so named because the first settler came from New England.

Animals and birds have given us the following names: Antelope Hill, Big Horn Mountain, Buffalo Peak, Buzzards Roost, Coyote Rock, Eagle Nest, Eagle Point, Goose Hill, Sheep Hill, Wildcat Mountain, and Wildhorse Hill.

Native vegetation has contributed Cedar Bluffs, Cedar

Hill, Cedar Point, Hackberry Hill, and Hackberry Point. The cedar occupies the most prominent place in this group, for its habitat is on such elevations.

Personal names have been transferred to these relief features, the family name being almost exclusively used. National celebrities have not been honored in the place-names of this group unless there was some personal association, as in a few of the names referred to above in which the names of the explorers Fremont, Lewis, and Clark were applied. Most of the personal names are those of early settlers, among them the following: Bassett Hill, Russel Hill, Cook Hill, Pilgrim Hill, and Dennison Hill. A nickname of an early settler and scout was give to Happy Jack Peak.

Although the Indians had names for some of the features in this group, their names have not been retained, not even in translation. Some of these prominences served as landmarks to the Indians, and some of them are identified with events in aboriginal history, but they did not play the role in their lives that the larger streams did. Consequently the Indians mentioned them less in their contact with the white man, and the names were not emphasized to the extent that the larger stream names were.

### *Islands*

There are over sixty islands in the state which have been named. Most of them are in the Platte River and a few are in the Missouri.

Personal names predominate in this group. They are the names of early settlers, owners, trappers, and military officers. To this group belong the names of Shoemaker, Brady, and Wheaton Islands. Governors Island (Nemaha County) was so named because it belonged to Charles Morehead, a former governor of the state.

Descriptive names denoting some inherent features such as size and length include Grand, Big, and Long Islands. Names indicating specific vegetation are Willow, Elm, Cedar, Cottonwood, and Vine Islands, while Prairie and

Green Islands express the presence of vegetation more generally. The ideas of size and vegetation are brought out in the name Little Brushy Island. Bird life is represented by only one name, Eagle Island. Fremont, Sonora, and Niobrara Islands take their names from nearby towns.

Utilization of islands for some definite purpose is commemorated in the name Fort Farm Island. A part of this island was used for farming by the soldiers from Fort Kearny. Drover Island was used for grazing. Hog Island was used for raising hogs.

Two islands, Pawnee and Winnebago, were named for Indian tribes.

Governor Island in the Platte (not to be confused with the Governors Island named above) was so named because the governor of Nebraska spoke there at the dedication of a wooden bridge over the Platte.

A few islands in the Platte were designated by number in the order surveyed—Island No. 1, 2, and so on.

A number of island names found on the older topographical and military maps do not appear on recent maps. Changes in the channel of the Platte in some cases united the island with the banks, and the islands thus ceased to exist as such.

A change in the name of an island occurred with a change in ownership, when Shook Island became Governors Island when Governor Morehead purchased it.

The names of islands were given by trappers, surveyors, army officers, and settlers.

## II. NAMES OF NEGATIVE FEATURES

The negative features of relief bear the following appellative names: "valley," "canyon," "gulch," "draw," "flats," "hollow," "hole," "bottom," "park," "basin," "gap," "gate," and "pass." These names, like those of other relief features, have been used without definite distinction. The terms "canyon," "gulch," "draw," "park," and "hole" are used quite frequently in the western part of the United States.

A "park" is generally an open valley or basin between mountains, having few or no trees. In Custer County the name was given to a small basin or valley by early-day travelers who observed a settler at work among his trees on his tree claim, and the term was later applied to other valleys.

The term "hole" seems to have originated with trappers and was given to narrow openings where tributary streams entered the main stream. These appeared so much like holes that they received this name, although there is no sharp line drawn in the use of "hole," "basin," and "hollow." The same may be said of the terms "gap," "gate," and "pass."

### *Personal Names*

Over two hundred names of this group are of personal origin, being almost exclusively the names of early settlers. The exceptions are La Munyan Flats and Doc Valley, the former being named for a surveyor and the latter for the notorious cattle rustler "Doc" Middleton. The family names predominate, as in Baird Canyon, Spencer Park, Vorhees Valley, Redington Gap, and many others.

A few names in this group take the surname and a word denoting some direction, in order to distinguish features more precisely, as in Davis North Valley and East Smith Canyon. Forenames are found in Annie Valley, Jess Canyon, and Mose Flats. Alva Valley is the only case of the use of a middle name. The full name finds expression only in Bill White and Dan Smith canyons, and in these the forename is abbreviated. The following are examples in which nicknames were applied: Doc Valley, Happy Jack Canyon, and Dutch Henry Flats. Sandy Richards Valley makes use of a nickname and a family name.

### *Names Derived from Animal and Plant Life*

Native and domestic animals and their remains or other traces of their existence have furnished a score of names,

such as Antelope Flats, Big Horn Gulch, Coyote Canyon, Prairie Dog Canyon, Wildcat Canyon, Snake Canyon, Buzzards Roost Canyon, Eagle Canyon, Cricket Valley, Elkhorn Valley (Frontier County), Shinbone Valley, Buffalo Flats, and Bull Canyon.

Native vegetation has contributed about forty names to this group, trees contributing the greatest number. Such names are Ash Hollow, Box Elder Canyon, Cedar Canyon, Cottonwood Valley, Pine Canyon, Poplar Park, and Willow Valley. In some cases, as in Timber Canyon and Tree Canyon, the presence of trees is indicated without specification. On some old maps the French name (Coulee des Frenes) for Ash Hollow is given. Ash Camp Canyon derives its name from the presence of ash trees and the fact that it was a camping place. Beaver Tree Canyon commemorates a tree gnawed by beavers.

Smaller native vegetation has prompted such names as Sunflower Flats, Hay Flats, Cherry Canyon, Wheat (of a native wild variety) Flats, Yuca Valley, and Grapevine Canyon. The abundance of grass is indicated in the name Green Valley.

Lucerne and Rye valleys take their names from domesticated plants cultivated at these places.

### *Descriptive Names*

Descriptive names furnish a considerable contingent of the names of negative relief features. They point out some feature of shape, size, or pleasing effect on the beholder, or they indicate topography, materials found, and climatic conditions.

Names descriptive of shape are Horseshoe Flats, Horseshoe Valley, Round Valley, Triangle Flats, The Narrows, and Birdcage Gap. The idea of size is brought out in such names as Little Valley and Long Valley. Comparative size, together with native vegetation, is responsible for the names Big and Little Oak Canyons, while the name Little Horse-

shoe Flats was given in reference to the larger Horseshoe Flats.

Beauty, as it affected the minds of the early settlers, induced them to bestow such names as Fairview, Ideal, and Pleasant valleys, Sleepy Hollow, Eureka Valley, and Lucky Valley.

The names Rocky Hollow, Rock Canyon, and Gulch Canyon were given with the intent of describing their topography. Ruggedness and wild appearance called forth the name Devils Gulch, which appears three times on the Nebraska map.

Names indicative of natural materials found at certain localities include Sand Canyon, Sand Draw, Sand Flats, Sand Valley, Muddy Flats, Volcanic Ash Valley, and Salt Basin.

Weather and climatic conditions were uppermost in the minds of the people who bestowed the names Sunnyside Valley, Sunshine Bottom, Dry Valley, and Mirage Flats. Wet and Dry Spottedtail valleys bear the name of a celebrated Indian chief together with an indication of moisture conditions.

### *Names Derived from Cultural Features*

The names of towns or post offices were appropriated to form such names as Merna, Omega, Lillian, Edith, and Ger-ing valleys, and Gracie and Lavaca Flats.

Mitchell Pass and Mitchell Valley borrow their names from old Fort Mitchell. Brewery Canyon was so named because a brewery once existed there. A railroad built into a canyon for the purpose of hauling out ties and timber is responsible for the name Railroad Canyon, while a survey made for a railroad accounts for the name Survey Valley. The presence of a windmill explains the origin of the name Windmill Valley. Wells dug by early settlers suggested the names Well Canyon and Flowing Well Valley. An old mill tower standing on cedar poles accounts for the name Pole Mill Valley.

In the early days cultivated land was scarce in the western part of the state; its presence drew attention and thus brought about the christening of Farm and Garden valleys. Peculiar roomlike holes, supposed to have been excavated by human hands, inspired early ranchmen to give the name of Cliff Dwellers Canyon. A cut made into a canyon for the purpose of hauling out wood explains the origin of Cut Canyon, and a valley used as a camping place became Camp Valley. The names of ranches already in existence were bestowed upon McCann Cañyon and Spade Valley.

### *Commemorative Names*

Incidents in the lives of the early settlers and ranchmen are the sources of a few names. During unfavorable weather at a roundup the cowboys passed the hours by playing cards, and ever afterwards the locality was known as Poker Flats. An outlaw killed by a posse was the cause of the name Dead Mans Gulch, while the accidental shooting of an early settler on a hunting trip prompted the use of the same name in another location. At one place a settler went insane and thus the name Crazy Hollow came into being. During a quarrel in another place a Negro cook was killed by a cowboy, and the place became known as Nigger Canyon. An unusual electrical storm experienced in the early days by cattlemen induced them to apply the name Lightning Valley to the locality.

A few names are reminiscent of the early military history of the state. Soldiers at one time were surrounded in a canyon by Indians; their food supply was low, and the only sustenance they had was bacon, in the soldier vernacular of that day known as "sowbelly." The canyon has since gone by the name of Sowbelly Canyon. Government Canyon and Soldier Canyon are names that also are associated with early military history.

Names reminiscent of early lawlessness include Horsethief Gulch, Horsethief Canyon, and Rustlers Hole.

Cheyenne, Indian, and Squaw valleys are names commemorative of Indian association.

### *Names Derived from Other Sources*

Streams have bestowed their names upon Ash Creek, Calf Creek, Curtis Creek, Deer Creek, and Fox Creek valleys. Lake Canyon was so named because of a lake it contains, while Whitewater and Sandbeach valleys have the names of the specific lakes within them. The presence of springs accounts for the names Spring Valley and Spring Canyon, while Boiling Springs Flat and Indian Springs Canyon take the names of particular springs. Big Marsh Flat was named for a marsh of considerable size.

Big Baldy Valley, Spotted Horse Valley, and Scotts Bluff Pass derive their names from prominent elevations associated with them, while a hill blackened by prairie fires prompted the name Black Hill Basin.

Names suggesting location include the following: Center Valley, West Water Canyon, and South Muddy Flats. Location relative to some cultural feature is brought out in such names as Midway Canyon, given because of the area's position midway between stations on the Oregon Trail. The name Home Valley occurs twice and was given to indicate the proximity of ranch homes. The name Ninemile Canyon expresses distance from the home ranch, and Annex Flats were so named because they were added to a ranch's area. A valley isolated or set apart by itself received the name Lone Valley.

The nationalities of early settlers are suggested by names such as Bohemian, Dutch, and German valleys, Dutch and Irish Flats, and Polander Hollow. The former residences of settlers from other parts of our own country are indicated by the names Hoosier, Boston, and Buckeye valleys, and Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, and Arkansas Flats.

The jovial characteristics of certain early settlers account for the name Happy Hollow, while the lack of ambition in others called forth the name Sleepy Hollow Draw.

The Biblical names Eden, Elim, and Palestine were given to valleys supposed to be similar in appearance to those areas.

The names of negative relief features were given by early settlers and particularly by the cattlemen. A few, especially those along lines of travel, were applied by migrants and freighters whom they served as landmarks. Some names of recent origin were applied by men engaged in the soil survey.

Some of the original names have been changed for various reasons. Change in ownership of land caused the alteration of Jennings Valley to Whitten Valley and of Swabrow to Spurgeon Valley. A canyon originally known as Box Elder Canyon was named Fitchie Canyon after a man of that name occupied it. Taylor Valley was changed to West Cedar Valley after the settler for whom it had been named was somewhat forgotten. Poormans Bottom was changed to Sunshine Valley because the inhabitants felt, not unnaturally, that the former name gave a wrong impression of the locality. Crazy Hollow was changed to Pleasant Valley because the earlier name was considered "vulgar" and therefore was disliked.







